



S.O.S. Carefree Times



19 Summer 99



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
of the
SOCIETY OF STRANDERS
and
THE ASSOCIATION OF
CAROLINA SHAG CLUBS



S.O.S.
Carefree Times

Box 4688, Columbia, SC 29204

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Welcome Message

— Marilyn Hesse, Assistant Editor

The staff of *The S.O.S. Carefree Times* would like to welcome all of you who've recently become S.O.S. members and are receiving *The Carefree Times* in the mail for the first time.

The magazine comes with a friendly "warning" though: make sure you have a good supply of your favorite beverage in the fridge and plenty of munchies in the cupboard and plan an uninterrupted evening at home before you continue, 'cause we don't think you'll be able to put this issue down once you pick it up!

Due largely to the wonderful efforts of our contributing editors—who really outdid themselves this time—we think this is the best issue yet! So ease down into your Lazy-Boy or get the pillows plumped up comfortably in bed, and enjoy!

Inside are lots of entertaining articles, shag club news, S.O.S. and A.C.S.C. news, upcoming event details, photos of your friends, contest winners, and quite a few laughs. You'll find ordering details in case you haven't purchased your Millennium Celebration ticket yet, and you'll even have an opportunity to win around \$800 worth of music by taking Mike Lewis's S.O.S. Music Quiz.

We encourage submissions for upcoming issues from anyone who would like to write a feature article, short story, poem, humor, or just send your favorite S.O.S. photos or memories. Don't feel that you have to be a top-notch writer to submit something, because we take care of any copyediting that may be needed.

Deadlines for receipt of materials for upcoming issues (which we must adhere to strictly) are shown at right. (The sooner you send something in, the more likely we will be able to include it.) We'd love to hear from you next time!

Submissions may be sent by either regular mail or e-mail to:

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S.O.S. Carefree Times Summer Mailout

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S.O.S. Carefree Times Upcoming Deadlines

EDITION	DEADLINE	DISTRIBUTION
Fall Migration '99	August 13	September 10
Winter Mailout '99	November 19	December 20
Spring Safari '00	March 3	March 31
Summer Mailout '00	May 19	June 19



Ron and Peggy Whisenant

Hello everyone!

This is the downtime that all of you S.O.S. members that burned the candle at both ends during Spring Safari have been looking for—yes, sir, well deserved downtime. You all played hard, danced all night, and sipped at least five gallons of your favorite beverage. Can you imagine a five-gallon bucket of your favorite drink? Can you guys think about drinking five gallons of

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

beer? Not a problem. We had ten glorious days to do that, and some may have topped that amount.

I hope that you had as good a time as I did. The weather was great, the dancing was fast, the women were pretty, and the parade was absolutely awesome. If you missed the parade, you missed a lot of Spring Safari.

What's next, you ask? How about a trip to Burlington, NC for the Summer Workshop on July 9-11? These folks are getting ready to host our shag workshop, and it should be a great time for all of those who attend. That's right, and the summer is only half over—still time for the lake parties, pool parties, and other summertime festivities that you normally do. There are shag club

parties to attend, Friday nights to shag with friends, etc.

We're getting close to Fall Migration now. But wait! Are you one of the 3,000 that will celebrate the millennium at Ocean Drive with your friends and fellow shaggers? Have you purchased your ticket? I hope some are still available when you decide to act on reserving yours. I will be there, and I hope I will see you there.

'Til next time, I wish you all the best that life has to offer and that you do some great dancing 'til we meet again. How fortunate we are to have a lifestyle of this magnitude that nurtures fellowship, love, and respect for one another and allows us to share the music and dance!

Love y'all, — Ron

The A. C. S. C. Js Cruising in 2000!

It's time to "rock the Boat" with some Beach and Boogie tunes...and a bit of Shag dancing while enjoying luxury fit for a king or a queen!

The Association of Carolina Shag Clubs will be hosting a shag cruise in March, 1999, and you can be there for the fun.

After comparing many different cruises, lasting various lengths of time, a one week trip has been selected. We were able to secure excellent prices.

Two great Shag DeeJays will be on board to play your favorite music.

Iteneraries, prices and other details will be given to all Shag Clubs at the *Summer Workshop* in July. This information will also be available on www.shagdance.com

Make plans now so you won't be left out. The cruise is open to everyone so spread the word!





Mike Rink

This is shaping up to be a banner year for the shag. Consider these facts:

- The 1999 Mid-Winter Classic hosted by the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs at Ocean Drive was the biggest ever. The Association currently has nearly 100 Full Member shag clubs and nearly 30 other members!
- The 1999 S.O.S. Spring Safari was nothing short of fantastic. There was a great crowd of new and long-time shaggers in attendance. Our deejays made sure the music was awesome for the entire ten days. The largest and best S.O.S. Parade to date helped cap off the event with an enormous boost of creativity and fun.
- The 1999 Fall Migration should be the greatest S.O.S. ever. Look for even more great music and good times. Our third annual S.O.S. Fun Monday event will be even more awesome this year thanks to the hard work of the S.O.S. Enhancement Committee. The Mojo Blues Band and other great artists will be there to play music in the street. Many other activities are also planned for that day and that week. I can't wait for September!
- Shag dancing and shag music are spreading throughout the dance world and into areas farther and farther away from Ocean Drive, SC. We receive phone calls and e-mail messages from all over the country requesting information about how to shag or where to go shagging.

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

A quick look at the events page of www.shagdance.com (the official web site of the Association and S.O.S.) shows that there is something going on in the shag world every week. There are so many dances, parties, and other shag related activities taking place that potential attendees are often forced to choose between several events being held on the same date. Remember the mid '80s when there were only a few big shag parties during the entire year?

➤ Our organizations continue to grow and prosper. People are positive about our efforts, and more people are becoming involved. The Association of Carolina Shag Clubs is strong and more organized than ever. Membership in S.O.S. is increasingly heading toward record numbers, too, as enthusiasm continues to build higher.

In short, it all looks really good for shagging into the next millennium. Speaking of which, let me remind you about something you do not want to miss.

Procrastination would be a terrible reason for not being able to attend the most spectacular shagging New Year's Eve Party ever. The Millennium Party at Ocean Drive will be a four-day celebration. Only 3000 tickets will be sold. Get yours *soon* before they are gone. (More details are on Page 7.) If you miss this party, you will regret it!

As we in the A.C.S.C. and S.O.S. continue to strive for improvement, we are open to your suggestions and offers of help.

We have become very strong; however, some of the local shag clubs in the Association really need your support to ensure their survival. Will you help them? Like a piggy bank, the more you put into a shag club, the more you are able to take out. But if you take out more

than you put in, you will soon have nothing left!

Membership in any organization is also a commitment of support to that group. It doesn't matter how many members are in an organization if those members don't volunteer and help with the work that must be done. Think about that and then consider how much impact you can have by giving at least one single hour of actual work per month to your club. An hour may not seem like much to you—and it isn't—but it will help ensure the health and welfare of something you love. Your hour will go even further when it is added to the hours given by others.

Finally, if you are not in a shag club, consider joining today. You won't find a better way to meet new friends or to gain more opportunities to enjoy great music and dancing!

Have a great summer, and keep shagging in your plans. I hope to see you all at the S.O.S. Fall Migration!
— Mike Rink

**Important notice
to all shaggers ...**

**The Spring
2000 S.O.S.
dates have
been changed**

**The new dates are
April 7 - 16, 2000**

A Bolt From the Blue — Swapping Pants in the Men's Room Gave Birth to S.O.S.

— by Phil Sawyer



"The history of S.O.S. is penned in ink of happenstance. Our book is filled with bolts from blue rather than genius of plan of design," Gene Laughter, originator and founder of S.O.S., wrote in a late 1980s edition of the *Carefree Times*.

How right he was. You read (if you didn't, you missed a great yarn) of the bottle hoax in the magnificent article by Rich Harris in the Spring Safari issue of the *Carefree Times*. You need to know about the day Tom Lilly swapped pants with a stranger and set S.O.S. on the way.

It happened this way. It was early summer, 1980. S.O.S. was just an idea Swink had dreamed up. He had journeyed from Norfolk to Ocean Drive to make it happen.

Swink met up with his long time buddy and former beach bum and lifeguard Tom Lilly. Tom liked the idea, and they set about making contacts. No one—no one was interested. As Swink put it, "The beach community wanted golfers, not old jitterbugs."

The trip had been a bust. No one wanted a reunion of beach bums. The time had been wasted, so Swink and Tom settled into the closest bar at hand for a couple of beers.

Tom just happened to be wearing a pair of flashy white pants with

Snoopy flying and diving his open cockpit Sopworth Camel, scarves trailing, firing bursts of tiny machine guns at Baron Manfred von Richthofen, the Red Baron embroiled all over them. Swink was not impressed.

Nobody ever drinks just one beer. This day was no exception. After a couple of rounds, a stranger walked up. The stranger, a pilot, immediately became enamored of Tom Lilly's pants.

"You like them, you can have them," Tom told the stranger. "You and I are about the same size." Swink ordered another round. Tom and the stranger went to the men's room to change pants.

They returned to the table with great guffaw over the exchange. The stranger, understandably, asked what they were doing here. Were they golfers?

"No indeed," Swink answered. "We're old beach diggers, and we are here to set up a reunion, but we have had no luck. No one wants us."

The stranger just happened to be Gordon McMean, owner of the Oak Tree Inn (now the Maritime Inn). "Come with me," he said: "I own a large oceanfront hotel ... it is on its knees, about belly up ... and it's yours! Use it as you wish!"

The rest is history.

The Oak Tree Inn became the site of the unforgettable first S.O.S., which was indescribable. You had to be there to experience it. There will never, ever, be another one like it. I remember going there with some apprehension, since I had never been a lifeguard or beach bum. I was not sure they would let me in.

But let me in they did. Chick and I signed the book, and the Monday following I wrote to Swink Laughter and said, "If you have another one and I am not there, you will know that I have expired."

That was 19 years ago; I have not expired; and I have never missed an S.O.S.

A bottle hoax, a chance meeting of a total stranger at a bar, and two old beach diggers (for whom nothing was too outrageous, not even swapping pants) saved the day and possibly S.O.S.

A personal note: Both Swink Laughter and Tom Lilly come to S.O.S. So if you should chance to meet either or both (usually in front of Ducks), be sure to shake their hands and tell them how much you appreciate what they did for the beach, beach music, and the dancing world. But don't offer to change pants with them ... that is, unless you want to go home with another pair of pants.

Phil Sawyer is the president and CEO of S.O.S.

Spring Safari '99 Parade Contest Winners

Best Shag Theme

- 1st Place: Cape Fear Shag Club
2nd Place: Twisters Shag Club

Best Marching Troop

- 1st Place: Northern Virginia Shag Club
2nd Place: Piedmont Shag Club

Most Original

- 1st Place: OD Shag Club
2nd Place: Association of Beach And Shag Club DeeJays

See Page 7 for parade photos!

Spring Safari ... A Hunting Expedition

— by Anne Jernigan Henry



Spring was in the air, and the safari clothes and hunting gear were packed as I set off to North Myrtle Beach.

The shag beasts were on the move when I arrived, darting out in front of cars on Main Street and circling the bikes in front of Ducks. It appeared to be mating season, as the males were exhibiting some fancy footwork on the dance floors, trying to impress the female shag species. The natives were restless ...

Thus began my arrival at yet another S.O.S. extravaganza, 1999 Spring Safari. The surroundings and atmosphere on Ocean Drive reminded me of old memories, and I could hardly wait to experience new adventures.

I remembered from past safaris how S.O.S. enhances one's senses: a collection of *sights* (the first glimpse of Main Street, then the ocean behind O.D. Café), *sounds* (beach music resonating onto the street from Fat Harold's and Pirate's Cove), and *aromas* (the grill at O.D. Arcade). Spring 1999 was no exception.

In the village living quarters, Allen Davis had prepared his crab-cakes; Donnie Way was stirring a cauldron of Cajun gumbo; Brenda and Bill Brown were mixing shooters; Doris Waite was there to greet me with her wonderfully infectious laugh, which always makes me feel better; and Mike Redding had

arrived for the hunt, a welcome sight after having had heart surgery. I could anticipate the exhilaration of the adventure.

The group was delighted by a new addition at Ducks Too—caricatures being drawn by Ron (who seemed to know something no one else knew, but he wouldn't tell). I watched Charlie and Jackie on the dance floor, and once again I hoped that tomorrow morning I would awaken transformed.

The assembly gathered 'round for an A.C.S.C. meeting on Saturday morning, and another unique experience occurred. Michael Payne appeared dressed as Father Time, and Murl Augustine represented the new baby 2000, promoting the Millennium Party. It was not a pretty sight, but I brought out the old Kodak and preserved the moment for posterity.



Michael and Murl:
"Father Time" & "Baby 2000"

I learned that Spring Safari 2000 had been rescheduled and that the new date is April 7-16. I made a note to tell all my employed friends to reschedule their vacations!

As another expedition neared a close, shaggers wandered onto the streets in anticipation of the first

drum beat beginning this year's parade. Excitement built as the first entry began its trek down Main Street and slowly came into view. The air was cool, the wind slightly gusting, and the sun refused to peek from behind the clouds. The weather, however, would not daunt this hearty group of partygoers.



Once again, no one was disappointed as the biggest and best-ever shag parade passed in review. How could one possibly endure the wait until the next Spring Safari parade? The answer came as if in a vision—attend Fall Migration and experience Fun Monday festivities!

The safari had begun to take its toll—fatigue had set in, but shaggers still would go in search of another dance, another song, another new step—there would be time to rest after the return home.

Those who had joined the caravan and attended Spring Safari for the very first time were a wonder to behold. Soon they would be seasoned veterans of the hunt and return again and again to the camp ...

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.

Don't forget: The Spring 2000 S.O.S. dates have been changed to April 7 - 16, 2000.

A New Year's Eve Party To Remember

The word is out! The Association of Carolina Shag Clubs, in conjunction with Ducks, Ducks Too, Harold's, the O.D. Café/Spanish Galleon, the O.D. Arcade, and the Pirate's Cove, is hosting a major event to ring in the year 2000. People will be talking about this event for ages. It will be big, and it will be a lot of fun!

This four-day party will last from Thursday, December 30, through Sunday, January 2. It will be the last shag party of 1999 at Ocean Drive and the first shag party in the year 2000.

In fairness to the attendees, only 3,000 tickets will be sold to this event so that all ticket holders can be in one of the participating lounges (if they want to be) when the clock strikes 12 midnight. Since there are about 11,000 S.O.S. members—and roughly 15,000 people in the Asso-

ciation of Carolina Shag Clubs—demand for tickets is high. If you want to attend, you need to get your ticket *soon!* All your friends will be there! Will you?

There will not be any single day passes. Nor will you be able to pay a cover charge to participate. The only way to get into these lounges 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 seven 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.

Plans for the "Super Saturday" part of this event are being finalized

as we go to press. Much like Fun Monday, there will be several bands and special musical artists to entertain you that Saturday.

Tickets can be purchased through your local shag club, at one of the participating lounges, or by mail. Get your tickets today.

To order by mail, send \$75 per ticket along with your name(s), mailing address(es), and phone number(s) to:

ACSC
PO Box 4688
Columbia, SC 29204



Please note: Any tickets still available after 10/1/99 will cost \$100 each.

For more details and the latest information about this event (including band schedules, etc.) visit www.shagdance.com or call us toll free at 888-767-3113.

Fall Line Dance Competition Heating Up

The Fall Line Dance Competition is heating up with teams coming from all around: Conyers and Atlanta, Georgia; Sanford and Raleigh, North Carolina; and watch out for the team from Florence, South Carolina. This team may surprise everyone, so don't miss out!

This year's production, as in the past three years, is full of talented dancers, great entertainment—with a few surprises mixed in—and a fun time for all.

Competition begins on Friday, September 24 at 1 p.m. at the O.D. Arcade, with finals on Saturday, September 25 at 1 p.m. in the new Spanish Galleon. The 1999 Fall Line Dance Competition should be a great exhibition of some of the most superlative line dancers around.

So meet us on the dance floor September 24 and 25!

The entry deadline is July 31.

1999. For more information contact: Carol Worrell, P.O. Box 771, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, (910) 642-2868 (H) or (910) 640-6624 (W).

— Carol Worrell

Parade a Huge Success

Once again the S.O.S./A.C.S.C. Spring Safari Parade was a huge success and once again had more participants than ever: over 500.

This year was our closest brush yet with the weather. It was misting rain in OD just a few hours before showtime, and there were downpours as close as Murrells Inlet and various places in Myrtle Beach. I guess what saved us was the fact that one of the five judges was Ed Piotrowski, WPDE-TV 15 meteorologist.

I would like to thank all of you who took part in the parade. You are the reason this event is so successful. Please continue! All of the entries

were great and so innovative. It blows me away to see the ideas you guys come up with. It was good to see the KMA with an entry for the first time. And a special thanks to Mr. Bill Pinkney, our Grand Marshall.

The following people also deserve a special thanks: my wife Becki David, Debbie Childress, Susan Butler, Joann German, Al Butler, and Tony Gilliam—these are the folks that help me each year to try to keep the parade from being total chaos to only partial chaos. Thanks, guys!

Congratulations to the winners! (They are listed on Page 5.)

This year, for the first time, a professional video was made. (I have seen it, and it is super!) It will be presented to all clubs that entered a float or marching troop. Videos will be available for sale at Judy's House of Oldies.

See you all again next year!

— Don David,
S.O.S. Parade Chairman

TURNING THE TABLES



News from the Association of Beach and Shag Club Deejays

Mike Lewis,
President
Association
of Beach
and
Shag Club
Deejays



As the spring weather warms, I am spending my days and nights much like many other deejays in our association—wedding rehearsal parties and receptions, class reunions, business parties, pig pickings and picnics, and every kind of shag event you can imagine.

Members in the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs enjoy a wide array of special weekends, one-night extravaganzas, fundraisers, and other fun-filled events in which our deejays play an integral part. We love entertaining you and your friends no matter what the occasion!

Meanwhile, everyone in the shag world in marking time and making plans for Fall Migration 1999. But don't we do that every S.O.S.? Aren't there always great times replete with wonderful music? Yes, but this Fall Migration will be even more so because of another terrific Fun Monday.

Not only will we get another dose of the best rhythm and blues band in the world, The Mojo Blues Band, but we will also get special treats! A. C. Reed, an indescribable saxophone wailer, will join the Mojo guys, along with Deitra Farr, an exciting female vocalist, to boogie in the street at Ocean Drive.

For the first time we will also

have a real Carolinas-style beach band, The Fantastic Shakers, to join the playbill. The Shakers have literally shook up the traditional beach music scene with their new and old versions of classic and original dance tunes. In addition to the top selling, most popular *Shakin' The Shack*, they now include a repertoire of hours of great shag dancing music.

What will they do for us on Fun Monday? It's a national secret! You have to come to find out! Bo and Freddy and the other Shakers want their turn at rocking your shag world—they are determined to make a Mojo-level impact on you, too. If you believed you had to be from the '50s or from somewhere like Memphis or Chicago to do rhythm and blues tunes or be one of the "boys from Austria," you are in for a surprise. The Mojo Blues Band will bowl you over, and the Shakers are not going to let you up.

More and more Association clubs are choosing to have booths of food and drink in the Fun Monday streets, supplementing the valiant efforts of the S.O.S. participating lounges and the other street businesses to water and feed us that glorious day.

We are a happy, thirsty, hungry bunch when we are entertained. And this Fun Monday we will be starved after the wondrous Womanless Beauty Pageant, and I promise to behave myself when describing the beautiful "ladies" to you, detailing their hobbies, hopes, and dreams.

Come out early for Fun Monday, and that means being on the street ready to party at 10 a.m. Our deejays will be there to entertain you between bands, and our own Judy Collins has once again done her usual fine job of planning it all.

Recommended Shag Deejays

If the music at your party is important...

★ Mike Rink ★

704-892-1061 17219 Jetton Road
mikerink@aol.com Cornelius, NC 28031

Sammie Davidson

2375 Jim McCarter Rd. • York, SC 29745-9387
H (803) 684-9325 • W (803) 684-5068



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Have a wonderful, shag-filled summertime. You only have a short time to hone your steps and get your new street hat and outfit for Fun Monday. I am going through all 79 of my Hawaiian shirts now to decide which one to starch up for this event!

Enjoy your favorite beach club at Ocean Drive or in your home town, if you're so lucky as to have one. Go to Association events this summer, too. You need all the practice for Fall Migration you can get!

Questions about the music or our deejays? Call me at 919-942-4498 or e-mail to <beachdj@email.unc.edu>.

— Mike Lewis, President

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

S.O.S. Music Quiz For Our Charity

— Mike Lewis, Contest Coordinator

Every year S.O.S. has a special charity that certain events raise money for and support. Once again this year, that charity is Caring For Kids, a Horry County-based organization. We did several terrific fundraisers at last year's S.O.S. Line Dance Competition, and we will again this year on the second Saturday afternoon of Fall Migration 1999 at 1 p.m. in the Galleon.

As this issue goes to press, so far I've collected 40 CD's of beach music from the generous sponsors listed at right; but additional sponsors are still coming on board, and it looks like my final giveaway will be **50 (fifty!) CD's, worth about \$800 for some lucky soul!**

I will draw a winner at the 1999 S.O.S. Line Dance Competition from all entries received by September 15, 1999.

Enter as many times as you wish by answering the three questions on the entry form below and including your \$3.00 donation with each entry.

Obviously, it is easy, folks, and we want to kick off our charity effort this time with your entry—your chance to win 50 beach CD's, and you do not have to be present to win.

Our thanks to these generous sponsors for the compact disc donations!

RIPETE Music Group
 The Fantastic Shakers
 The Holiday Band
 The Coastline Band
 Little Isidore and Little Leopold
 Shag Archives Music
 SONY Music
 The Mighty Kicks Band
 Big John Ruth (Oldies 100.7 in Raleigh, N. C.)
 Flash From Calabash
 Collector's Choice Records (Kannapolis, N. C.)
 The members of the Association of Beach And Shag Club Deejays (more than 300 strong!)
 Peerless Music (Canada)
 Edwards Music Network (Beach Classics)
 The Wax Museum (704-377-0700)
 Tyndall's Formal Wear (800-672-1612, discount to SOS'ers)
 The Willis Blume Agency (Beach Bands)
 And other sponsors that donated after this issue went to press

Questions? Please e-mail me at <beachdj@email.unc.edu>. See you all at the S.O.S. Line Dance Competition in the Fall!

S.O.S. MUSIC QUIZ FOR CHARITY ENTRY FORM

ENTRY DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15, 1999 • ENTRY DONATION: \$3.00

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY:

Name _____

Address _____

FILL IN THE ANSWERS TO THESE THREE QUESTIONS:

1. Before it was North Myrtle, it was _____ Beach.
2. His name was Dan. How long could he do it? (Shag, of course...) _____
3. On Fun Monday, if your Reverse Raffle ticket is drawn last, you win \$_____!

Donation of \$3.00 is enclosed by (please check one): Cash Check (made payable to Caring For Kids)

SEND ENTRY TO: Mike's S.O.S. Music Quiz • Box 1111 • Carrboro, NC 27510

Happy New Year!

2000

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by Johnny Hammond

There was a mini-series on TV recently about The Temptations. If you're a baby boomer—and I know most of you are—you probably enjoyed it even more than an ole timer such as I.

There have been 19 performers to wear the banner "Temptation" over the last 30 years. This story was mainly about the first six. It covered their joys and their heartaches. I would like to reflect on a few things from the dark side that weren't covered.

First, let me say their story was strong enough and interesting enough to have been a four-part series. They were celebrities. They had it all: loving fans, big houses, big cars, big money, and they paid a very, very big price.

When The Temptations were formed in 1960, the original members were Otis Williams, Melvin Franklin, Eddie Kendricks, Paul Williams (no relation to Otis), and "Al" Elbridge Bryant. Harmony was the name. Survival was the game.

I guess there's a certain amount of darkness that comes to everyone living as a celebrity. Some make it ... many don't.

In 1963 Elbridge Bryant, after missing many rehearsals and partying day and night, developed an attitude the group could no longer condone. After many opportunities to clean up his act, he was let go. He continued to slide downward until he developed cirrhosis of the liver and died penniless somewhere in Florida. I think the year was 1979.

Replacing "Al" Bryant was the dynamic David Ruffin. The group had known David for years. He was the younger brother of Jimmy

Ruffin, R&B singer under contract to Motown. David was a natural born performer and, whatever finishing touches the group needed, he provided and then some. He was a shot in the arm for the group but soon became a pain in the ass.

David, Paul, and Eddie were all lead singers and each did an outstanding job. There have been few groups who could claim such versatility. Even so, their first real hit didn't come until '64. They struck gold with *The Way You Do the Things You Do*.

Friction between Eddie and David developed early because Eddie felt that David, who really wanted to be a solo artist, was just using the group as a stepping stone and didn't really have the group's best interest at heart.

In the mid-'60s, "The Temps" became one of the brightest jewels in the crown of Motown. They were a vocal and dance group who made the Motown sound a favorite with millions throughout the world. Although they had numerous personnel changes, they remained a top act for nearly three decades.

The first serious trouble with David began in 1967. Twenty-two-year-old Tami Terrell (singing partner of Marvin Gaye) was living with David when she had to undergo the first of six operations for a brain tumor. It was widely rumored that her condition was the result of beatings she suffered from the strung-out Ruffin. This was never proven. Tami died in 1970, just before her 25th birthday.

By 1968 David was totally out of control. His drug problem had shifted into high gear. He didn't just



Johnny Hammond

skip rehearsals, he said he didn't need them. Finally, he started skipping performances. Even though he was the standout and no one has ever done it since the way he did—and probably never will—his attitude had to be confronted.

The other shoe dropped when he sent word for the group to go on without him. At the time, David was involved with one of Dean Martin's daughters, and it was her opening night in Vegas. David felt it was more important to be at her opening than his own. Bam! He was out. He even caused problems after he left the group; but he will, more than likely, always be thought of as the lead singer of The Temptations.

A sad page was added to The Temps' history in April of 1988 when David was jailed in Detroit on possession of cocaine after he couldn't post \$150 cash for a \$1500 bond. Charged with intent to distribute a small amount of the drug, he faced a possible 20-year prison sentence but was found guilty only of use and ordered to undergo substance abuse treatment.

It did little good. Bad Boy David wasn't ready for help. On June 1, 1991, he died of a drug overdose under what can easily be described as "mysterious circumstances."

The Temptations had many tragedies and personal heartaches to befall them. I think the one that most affected them for the longest time was Paul Williams. Paul's creative juices were always flowing. He was

(Continued on Page 14)

Down Memory Lane

(Continued from Page 13)

the most instrumental in keeping their smooth and sexy choreography refreshed and updated.

In the beginning, he was the only non-drinker in the group. They called him The Milkman. Man, did that ever change—from milk to two or three fifths a day. This—and I don't know what else—led to fast health deterioration.

He finally had to come off the road in '71. He just couldn't keep up any longer. He had also developed respiratory problems. Paul was kept on the payroll for a while, but that too ended. After losing his wife and kids and most of his money through bad investments, Paul soon lost his spirit and continued to drink.

In mid-August, 1973, Paul Williams was found dead in the street near 14th and West Grand in Detroit (not in his car in a remote spot as

depicted in the mini-series). The official cause of death was a self-inflicted gunshot to the head. He was 34 years old.

Eddie Kendricks' health was deteriorating when he came to sing *My Girl* at David Ruffin's funeral. As he approached the church, he was arrested for failure to pay \$26,000 in child support. He was allowed to sing but then jailed for a couple of days until a \$10,000 bail was posted.

The very next year Eddie died of lung cancer. He blamed his condition on 30 years of heavy smoking. He was 52 years old.

The fourth original member to die was Melvin Franklin, who suffered from rheumatoid arthritis for many years. He, along with Otis Williams, retired in 1986.

Melvin's condition worsened after retirement; and in 1995, he was admitted to the hospital after a series of seizures. He sustained significant neurological damage, which was

complicated by diabetes and other medical problems. Melvin Franklin was also 52 years old.

Otis Williams is the lone survivor. The Temps went through so many things together and separately. There's no way things could have always worked smoothly. They stood all those years, not in spite of those who left, but because of them. Eddie saw The Temps as crucial to Motown, just as David saw himself as essential to The Temptations. They were both wrong.

Their amazing legacy includes 76 R&B charters in singles alone and 52 Pop counterparts. An incredible 41 of those R&B hits were Top Ten over a period of 25 years (1962-1987).

Otis Williams used to say, "It ain't the magic in the wand, it's the magician who uses it." Think about it!

Johnny Hammond is a member of the Electric City Shag Club in Anderson, SC. This article was first published in their newsletter, "Shag 'N Tales," Jan. 1999.

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Southern Culture

—by Phil Sawyer

Five and a half years ago I applied for and received a large grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to conduct academic level research to identify and select the two things which most universally represented Southern culture. The selection was in connection with a millennium showing of regional influence in the nation to be displayed in the Smithsonian.

I was elated and retired from my full-time job to devote myself completely and without reservation to this task. This had to be done right. First, I buried myself in the bowels of libraries all over the South. From the deepest catacombs of the holdings of the University of North Carolina, Mississippi State, Alabama, and the South Caroliniana, I spent hundreds of hours.

No reference was too obscure or too loosely connected to escape my

attention. Armed with a tape recorder and a laptop computer, I was off and running.

Next I convened seminars with scholars invited from such renowned institutes as the Jefferson Davis Group, headquartered in Mobile, and the Foundation for Southern Heritage, headed by the distinguished Southern scholar, Alexander H. Stephens IV, great grandson of the Vice President of the Confederacy. The seminars were vigorous, active, and serious. Everyone concerned realized the seriousness of the project for which they had been selected.

I consulted Southern governors for at least 40 years back. I had tea with Eudora Welty and spent an interesting hour at lunch with Strom Thurmond over a large bowl of navy bean soup and cracklin' cornbread. Jimmy Carter wrote me of his interest and suggested several leads

from which I might gain insight.

My research completed and my deadline for my response only six months away, I secluded myself in the basement apartment of the Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston. I only came out to validate my research and meet with the editors of the *News and Courier*, *The State*, and *The Charlotte Observer* to plan the timing of the release of my selections.

The selections were carefully guarded and unknown to anyone save myself. I scheduled a news conference on the steps of the First Baptist Church in Columbia. (You might remember that this is where the first ordinance of secession was signed.)

Oh yes, the selection! (Trumpet fanfare and drum roll please ...) The two things most representative of Southern culture are ... BOILED PEANUTS and POONTANG!

Phil Sawyer is the president and CEO of S.O.S.

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Event Planning Calendar

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JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
9-11 ACSC Summer Wkshp, Burlington, NC 16-18 Junior SOS, N. Myrtle Beach, SC 17 Shag 2 'Til 2 & BBQ Too, Greenville, NC 23-25 Capital Shag Classic, Alexandria, VA 24 Shag Blast, Goldsboro, NC 24 Sandkicker, Morganton, NC 30-31 Boogie & Bogey, Southern Pines, NC 30-31 Shaggin On The Santee, SC	5-8 Island Hop B'day Bash, Hampton, VA 6-8 Peach Jam, Atlanta, GA 7 Summer Chill-Out, Atlantic Bch., NC 7 Chicken Pickin, Gastonia, NC 13-15 Capital Area Kickback, Raleigh, NC 13-15 Geechee Blast, Mount Pleasant, SC 20-21 Shag Tracks, Chattanooga, TN 21 Reject Party, Statesville, NC 28 Super Summer Jackpot, So. Pines, NC 28 Meet Me In Middle, Greenville, SC	17-26 SOS Fall Migration, N. Myrtle Bch, SC 
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
7-10 Shag-A-Rama, Panama City, FL 8-10 Shag Classic, Atlantic Beach, NC 28-31 Beach Bash, Virginia Beach, VA 30 Halloween Blast, Lk. Waccamaw, NC 30 Shag-O-Ween, Greenville, NC	5-7 Fall Cyclone, Mooresville, NC 5-7 Columbia Invitational, Columbia, SC 10-14 Move Across the River, Mitchell, KY 12-13 Turkey Blast, Winston-Salem, NC 20 Shaggin Gobbler, Concord, NC	3-5 Christmas Party, Atlanta, GA 30-2 Millennium Celebration, NMB, SC 31 New Year's Eve Party, Cornelius, NC

Upcoming Event Details



JULY

- 9-11 **ACSC SUMMER WORKSHOP** in Burlington, NC. Hosted by the Burlington and Danville Shag Clubs. Tickets are \$35. DJ's Harold Beaver, Tommy Samole, Ron Arey, Roy Childress, and Clyde Waller. Call 336-227-5541 for rooms and ask for the party rate. Call 336-584-6826 for more information.
- 16-18 **JUNIOR SOS** at North Myrtle Beach, SC. Sponsored by the Junior Shag Association and the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs. This event is for those under 21 years of age. Lots of activities including free lessons, dances, competition and more. For more info, Carol Jenkins 803-222-4882 or Ron Alexander 803-222-4317 (evenings), 704-551-5454 (days) or E-Mail: alexanderron@msn.com
- 17 **SHAG 2 'TIL 2 & BBQ TOO** in Greenville, NC. Hosted by the Eastern NC Shag Club. Tickets are \$7. DJ's Jerry Hill & Russell Perkins. Select the best chicken, beef or pork chef. For entry or party info, call 252-321-1134 E-mail cletterton@catalytica-phar.com
- 23-25 **CAPITAL SHAG CLASSIC** in Old Town Alexandria, VA. Hosted by the Northern Virginia Shag Club. Tickets are \$55. DJ's Larry Edwards, Craig Jennings, Larry Jones, Brad Kinard & Charlie Price. Hors D'oeuvres Friday, Breakfast Saturday and Sunday. Dinner Saturday night. Free Shag workshop with Jennifer Beaver & Brad Kinard. Call 540-775-5342 for more information. E-mail hjennings@sentel.com
- 24 **SHAG BLAST** in Goldsboro, NC. Hosted by the Sugarfoot Shag Club. DJ's Jimmy Sasser and Walter Upchurch. Call 919-735-7901 for rooms and ask for the party discount. Call 919-735-4355 for more information. E-mail j.veaver@mail.icomnet.com
- 24 **SANDKICKER** in Morganton, NC. Hosted by the Sandy Beach Shag Club. Tickets \$20 or \$25 at the door. DJ Judy Collins. Free BBQ dinner, snacks, etc. Call 828-438-9042 for info. E-mail jsummers@broyhill.com
- 30-31 **BOOGIE AND BOGEY IN THE PINES** in Southern Pines, NC. Hosted by the Sandhills Shag Club. Tickets \$25-30. Golf, pool party. Call 910-895-4872 for more information. E-mail cme2build@infoave.net
- 30-31 **SHAGGIN ON THE SANTEE**. Hosted by the Orangeburg Area Shag Club. Tickets \$25. DJ's Jim Bowers and others. Call 843-563-7694 for more info. E-mail dkshag@infoave.net

AUGUST

- 5-8 **ISLAND HOP BIRTHDAY BASH** in Hampton, VA. Hosted by Boogie on the Bay Shag Club. Tickets \$50 before 7/1, then \$55. DJ's Gary Bass, Tommy Little, Don Ruth and Murl Augustine. Free food and free pours. Workshops with Judy Duke and others. Golf on Friday. Gospel hour on Sunday. Lots more. Call 800-582-8975 for rooms and ask for the party discount. Call 757-466-8946 for more information. E-mail nancy@microenhancements.com
- 6-8 **PEACH JAM** in Atlanta, GA. Hosted by ShagAtlanta. Call 404-943-0542 for more information. E-mail cm@rjgriffin.com
- 7 **SUMMER CHILL-OUT PARTY** in Atlantic Beach, NC. Hosted by the Coastal Carolina Shaggers. Tickets \$5. Heavy hors d'oeuvres, door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. Call 252-633-0897 for more information. E-mail bjrjce@coastalnet.com
- 7 **CHICKEN PICKIN** in Gastonia. Hosted by the Gaston Shaggers. DJ's Joanne Johnson and Eddie Anderson. Call 704-867-6506 for more info. E-mail jb4shag@aol.com
- 13-15 **CAPITAL AREA KICKBACK** in Raleigh, NC. Hosted by the Capital Area Shag Club. Tickets are \$35. One day tickets are also available. Call 919-878-5236 for rooms and ask for the party discount. Call 919-496-3000 for more information. E-mail djmrbeach@aol.com
- 13-15 **GEECHEE BLAST** in Mount Pleasant, SC. Hosted by the Charleston Shag Club. Call 843-884-3226 for more information.
- 20-21 **SHAG TRACKS V** in Chattanooga, TN. Hosted by the Choo Choo Shag Club. Tickets \$30. Ellen Taylor dance workshop. Call 800-527-1133 for rooms. Call 423-478-1574 for more information. E-mail pparrisg@aol.com
- 21 **REJECT PARTY** in Statesville, NC. Hosted by the Statesville Shag Club. Tickets \$20. DJ's Clyde Waller and Harold Beaver. Call 704-664-3756 for more information. E-mail mgsmith@i-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 910-572-3301 for more information.
- 28 **MEET ME IN THE MIDDLE PARTY** in Greenville, SC. Hosted by the Carolina Shag Club. Tickets \$25, then \$10 after 7pm. DJ's Billy Waldrep, John Wilson, Jack Moore and Chris Aiken. Pool party, cook out, free pour, etc. Pre-party on Friday. Call 864-288-6900 for rooms and ask for the party discount. Contact 864-292-8132 for more information.

SEPT

- 17-26 **THE SOS FALL MIGRATION** at Ocean Drive, SC. Hosted by the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs. Free shuttle service provided by SOS. Free food in participating lounges also provided by SOS. Lots of great DJ's and more. Check by the SOS Company Store and Headquarters for the latest info, and the latest SOS memorabilia. SOS membership info is available on www.shagdance.com. E-mail questions to mikesmail@mindspring.com

OCTOBER

- 7-10 **SHAG-A-RAMA** in Panama City, FL. Hosted by the Beach Shaggers of Birmingham. Tickets are \$30. DJ's Clyde Waller, Gene Reeves & Joanne Johnson. Call 1-800-224-GULF for rooms and ask for the party discount. Call 205-655-5555 for more information. E-mail trha@aol.com
- 8-10 **SHAG CLASSIC** in Atlantic Beach, NC. Hosted by Atlantic Beach Shag Club. Tickets \$25. Call 252-247-5118 for rooms. Call 252-726-1594 for more information.
- 28-31 **BEACH BASH** in Virginia Beach, VA. Hosted by the Virginia Beach Shag Club. Tickets \$60 until 9/1. Then \$70. DJ's Harold Beaver, Clyde Waller, Roc Sarlo, Debi Dee Linehan, Dave Jones, and Jerry Canada. Call 800-446-8199 for rooms and ask for the party discount. Call 757-638-0619 for more information.
- 30 **HALLOWEEN BLAST** in Lake Waccamaw, NC. Hosted by the Waccamaw Shag Club. Call 910-642-2275 for more information.
- 30 **SHAG-O-WEEN** in Greenville, NC. Hosted by the Eastern NC, Johnston County, Sugarfoot, and Wilson Area Shag Clubs. DJ's Randal Hight & Russell Perkins. E-mail irabil1017@aol.com

NOVEMBER

- 5-7 **FALL CYCLONE** in NC, near Lake Norman. Hosted by the Twisters Shag Club. Over 900 attendees in each of the last two years! Six great DJ's. Free shag workshop taught by pro dancers. Free meals and adult beverages all three days. Call 704-892-1061 for more party information. E-mail mikesmail@mindspring.com
- 5-7 **COLUMBIA INVITATIONAL** in Columbia, SC. Hosted by the Columbia Shag Club. Tickets \$40 until 10/1. Then \$45. Golf tournament, fashion show. Free pour on Sat. Call 803-731-0300 or 1-800-325-3535 for rooms and ask for the party discount. Call 803-359-0936 for more information. E-mail caldous@pbtcomm.net
- 10-14 **MOVE ACROSS THE RIVER** in Mitchell, Ky. Hosted by the Cincinnati Bop Club. Tickets are \$25. DJ's Gary Bass, Joanne Johnson, Larry Huff and Ron Wallace. Call 513-489-4983 for more information. E-mail cincibop@sprynet.com
- 12-13 **TURKEY BLAST** in Winston-Salem, NC. Hosted by the Winston-Salem Shag Club. Call 336-764-1514 for more information.
- 20 **SHAGGIN GOBBLER GET TOGETHER** in Concord, NC. Hosted by the Piedmont Shag Association. Call 704-788-2948 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!

My Old Shagging Trip Buddy

— by Bill Clinard

Where it all started

Dewey Kennedy and I hitchhiked to Carolina Beach, N.C. back in the late '40s to work and dance away the summer. Dewey (a.k.a. Tinker in those days) and I called each other "trip buddy" because we hitchhiked all over the state to date and dance with girls (a.k.a. "fat legs" in those days). If we came back to town on the north side, we slept over at my house. If we came in on the south side, we slept over at his house.

I thought I was poor until I saw Dewey's home. He had a bed and a cardboard wardrobe printed like knotty pine wood. Always a neat freak, his three extra pair of socks, drawers, and t-shirts were rolled in a row in the bottom of the wardrobe alongside a can of shoe polish and a brush. I never saw an extra pair of shoes.

Hanging above were a few shirts and pants—half of them with peg legs, cuffed, and seam down the sides tailored at Wright's Clothing for \$20. No telling how long it took Dewey to accumulate \$20. He would negotiate the sales tax out of the tailor.

Dewey was so frugally independent that he never asked his trip buddy for anything except to be on time. He could go farther on a dollar than a kangaroo on steroids and live on one 35¢ grilled cheese sandwich and two gallons of water a day.

He even saved on booze. After drinking one beer out of a dark bottle, he would keep it filled with water the rest of the night.

Yes, sir! Dewey was one of a kind. After they made him, they broke the mold and beat hell out of the mold maker.

So here we were at Carolina Beach, roommates at Earnhardt's Castle (a misnomer if there ever was one). Of course, Dewey had to go to work at once, so he joined Bunk

Leach in calling bingo. I had some money, so I was going to live it up 'til it ran out. After all, this was the hot spot where Bunk Leach, Lacy Moore, and Chicken Hicks, among others, were creating the fast dance that would become known as the shag.

My plans changed quickly later in the week when a big fat cop named Tiny (another misnomer) hauled me off the dance floor to jail on a charge of vagrancy. The overnight stay rested me physically, but it sure shattered my ego.

The next morning Dewey showed up in court to act as my attorney, with his front pockets sagging. After arguing, "Your Honor, this man has a place to stay paid for," he pled the case be nol-prossed, in his words, which I don't remember exactly except it was very funny.

You could tell it wasn't funny to Tiny by the fire in his eyes. After the judge stopped laughing, he split the court costs and charged one dollar for a one egg breakfast.

I don't know how he did it, but Dewey emptied a pocket and a half of exact change to cover the \$13.00. He couldn't find my stash, so he had begged nickels, dimes, and quarters all night to rescue his trip buddy. What a buddy! His attorney fee was my Old Spice after shave lotion, and he had enough grilled cheese sandwiches in his pocket for a week.

I really didn't mind leaving the beach and going back home to the "fat legs" I had met recently. That worked out great. Sometime later I became "Mr. Fat Legs." Leaving the beach was very timely. Little did we know the real plans the court had for me ...

Revisiting Carolina Beach

In the late '80s I was passing through Carolina Beach for the first time in 40 years. It had drastically changed.

The dark two lane road from Wilmington was now a split four lane highway. The tall trees hanging over the road had been replaced with brick and mortar all the way to the beach.

No one would pick up a hitchhiker now. I felt more at home when I walked the little alley streets on the beach front. When no one was watching, I did a little boogie walk (but not much).

I did what I had planned to do for years. I checked to see if my one embarrassing police record was still public information. Although Dewey Kennedy had saved me from 28 days on the pea farm, I still thought of suing to expunge the false vagrancy charge (but not much).

When I walked into the police station and spoke to the desk sergeant, he laughed until tears ran down his face, and every cop in the place gathered around and joined him. I showed a little anger (but not much).

Between laughs, he said, "You're about the 500th guy that has showed up in the last five years to ask that. Sit down. This is the old, old story."

The words flowed as if told many times.

"When we took over in the '50s, we found this kangaroo court milking the kids for money and supplying 'volunteer employees' for the country farm. The kids did okay. They gained ten pounds eating the peas they picked and learned several dance steps from their coworkers.

"The cops drove the dancers down the coast to Ocean Drive and Myrtle Beach. Then the cops started milking the tourists by passing tricky ordinances to trap them. With their success, they hired more and more cops.

"The tourists followed the dancers down the coast where they could watch them. Soon we had nothing but hundreds of cops walking

(Continued on Page 31)

What Gets Me About Our Time in History...

by Michael Payne

Is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers;
Wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints;
We spend more, but have less;
We buy more, but enjoy it less.

We have bigger houses and smaller families;
More conveniences, but less time.
We have more degrees, but less sense;
More knowledge, but less judgment;
More experts, and more problems;
More medicine, but less wellness.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values.
We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.
We've learned how to make a living, but not a life;
We've added years to life, not life to years.

We've been all the way to the moon and back,
But have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbor.
We've conquered outer space, but not inn space.
We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul.
We've split the atom, but not our prejudice.
We have higher incomes, but lower morals.
We've become long on quantity, but short on quality.

These are the times of tall men and short character;
Steep profits and shallow relationships.
More leisure, but less fun;
more kinds of food, but less nutrition.

These are days of two incomes, but more divorce;
Of fancier houses, but broken homes.
It is a time when there is much in the show window
and nothing in the stockroom!

And now I find
That they have released
The ingredients of
Viagra...
2% Aspirin
2% Ibuprofen
1% Filler
And 95% Fix-a-Flat!

Smoky Mountain Shaggers Make Headlines

— by Betty Ladwig

Only kidding, but I got your attention, didn't I? Actually, in our hearts we did make headlines with 50+ dance clubs from 20+ states represented at the Smoky Mountain Boogie held on March 25 - 28 in Gatlinburg. The event was co-hosted by the Smoky Mountain Shaggers of Knoxville and the Atlanta Swing Dancers Club.

Thanks to all our friends for making this another successful party. Tina Alston summed up the success of the event in the March 30, '99 edition of the *Mountain Press News*, a local newspaper published in Sevierville, this way:

Dancing visitors enjoy some of what Gatlinburg offers

GATLINBURG — Hugging and stopping for foot massages, nearly 700 dancers said goodbye after enjoying the four-day Smoky Mountain Boogie at the Mills auditorium in Gatlinburg.

Sponsors of the event, the Smoky Mountain Shaggers and the Atlanta Swing Dancers, came together to encourage each other to try a different slant to their dancing.

Knoxville's Betty Ladwig and Rich Kopels from Atlanta were co-chairpersons of the event. Dancers complimented the unusually good dance floor—their reason for choosing Gatlinburg over Knoxville, site of last year's event.

Murray Echols, a Birmingham engineer, said, "This has been the best one ever. Gatlinburg has a great floor for dancing."

First-time dance weekend enthusiast Ruth Ann Campbell has danced all her life. "First, when I came to these dance clubs, I was petrified at the thought of having to adapt to different men's styles after dancing with one man throughout my married life. This has meant so much to me," said Campbell. "It has been very healing; yet it's not a singles club."

Chicagoan George Baer agreed that the dancing was good. Gregg Hollenbaugh, president of a security firm, said dancing had changed him. "I used to live for the business; now I live to dance," Hollenbaugh said.

Among the vendors you could buy clothing, shoes, music and even stop for a massage and/or have photos taken by a professional photographer.

"No matter how tired we may be, when we hear music we find new energy and could dance forever," said Joyce Hasher from the Cincinnati Bop Club. "So many wonderful people meet at these weekend events and are just like one big happy family." — *Tina Alston, Staff Writer*

The Smoky Mountain Boogie March 1999 party was a four-day event held in the Mills Auditorium in the Gatlinburg Convention Center in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, which provided more than 6000 sq. ft. of hardwood, wall-to-wall dance floor. Glenstone Lodge Days Inn was our headquarter hotel. We filled the hotel to its capacity, and the overflow of guests were accommodated in nearby facilities.

We had invited three shag clubs, a bop club, and a swing club to co-host this event. The Atlanta Swing Dancers Club readily accepted our invitation and co-hosted the party. Rich Kopels, ASDC treasurer and past event director, was an outstanding co-chairperson.

It was our intent to bring all styles of dancers together in a festive atmosphere. We did exactly that with an overwhelming attendance of 681. No one wants to miss a good party—especially me, as is evident by the fact that I attended 36 parties in 1998.

Hospitality rooms were hosted by Fat Harold's Beach Club and the Cincinnati Bop Club. Our workshop instructors were outstanding, and our deejays outdid themselves and kept the floor busy. Even the six inches of snow on Friday morning did not keep the dancers away.

Yes, you all know the Smoky Mountain Shaggers in Knoxville. Our club was formed in June of 1996,

and in May of 1997 we had a small one-day club party at the Gettysvue Country Club in Knoxville. Ellen Taylor did our first professional workshop, accompanied by her handsome husband, business manager, and chauffeur (one man with all three attributes).

Our first two-day weekend party, Shaggin' in the Smokies, was held in March of 1998 and attended by 300 guests from 10 states representing 25 dance clubs. And this year's four-day weekend party was successful by all standards.



Smoky Mountain Shaggers Board of Directors

We are proud of the success we have had as a fairly new club and appreciate all of the support we have received from dancers and club owners. We are also proud to be a Full Member club of the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs as of February 1999.

I encourage all dancers to join your local dance club. Be kind, loyal, and honest and support that club. If you have other clubs near you, support them as well and attend any and all events possible. You *can* belong to more than one club; there are no limitations.

Whatever your dance, please always remember dance floor etiquette. We are all adults with a love for music, dancing, and camaraderie.

Betty Ladwig is the president of the Smoky Mountain Shaggers in Knoxville, Tennessee.



The 1999 N.S.D.C. Champions

Here are the 1999 N.S.D.C. Champions:

OVERALL WINNER

LeAnn Best and Michael Norris

JUNIOR DIVISION I

- 1st – Kellie Rumpfelt & Cory Alexander
Charlotte, NC & Clover, SC
- 2nd – Christina Woodruff & Kirk Bass
Sanford & Charlotte, NC
- 3rd – Staci Masa & Adam Sheppard
Fayetteville & Troy, NC

JUNIOR DIVISION II

- 1st – LeAnn Best & Michael Norris
Columbia, SC & Wilmington, NC
- 2nd – Jessica McAlhany & Grayson Smith
Columbia & Marion, SC
- 3rd – Leslie Melton & Norman Aldredge
Wilmington, NC & N. Myrtle Beach, SC
- 4th – Leah Sanderson & Grant Garmon
Beaulaville, NC & Virginia Beach, VA

NON-PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

- 1st – Mandy Holt & Chuck Jenkins
Eden, NC & Clover, SC
- 2nd – Kristin Leggett & William Green
Greenville, SC

- 3rd – Sylvia Sykes & Mario Robau
Santa Barbara, CA & Houston, TX
- 4th – Tabitha Talton & Joey Sogluizzo
Pikeville & Wilson, NC

MASTERS DIVISION

- 1st – Mary Lynn Green & Bob Myrick
Durham, NC
- 2nd – Judy Duke & A. C. Williams
N. Myrtle Beach, SC & Dunn, NC
- 3rd – Joan and John English
Charleston, SC
- 4th – Gail and Monty Simpson
Trinity, NC

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

- 1st – Sara and Sam West
Hamlet, NC
- 2nd – Jennifer Beaver & Brad Kinard
Statesville, NC & Clinton, SC
- 3rd – Jill Barton & David Campbell
Charlotte & Raleigh, NC
- 4th – Brenda and Bill Barber
Surfside Beach, SC
- 5th – Maureen and Rick Little
Monroe, NC
- 6th – Nancy and Gene Pope
Durham, NC
- 7th – Cameron and Jimmy Caruso
Charleston, SC
- 8th – Sharli and Bill Drew
N. Myrtle Beach, SC & Charlotte, NC

Report compiled by Marilyn Hesse. Source: www.shagnationals.com

The National Shag Dance Championships originated in March 1984 and will be celebrating its 17th Finals contest at Studebakers in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina during CanAm days in March 2000.

The N.S.D.C., as we are often called, is the longest running shag contest in the USA. The Nationals contest is the winner of two Feather Awards as "Best Swing Event in the USA."

National winners have appeared on *Good Morning America*, *CBS This Morning*, *The Crook & Chase Show*, *The Gatlin Brothers Show*, and *From Nashville to Broadway* in Myrtle Beach. They have also performed exhibitions at the Charlotte Hornets games, The Beach Ball Classic, the P. G. A. Annual Banquet, The Cammy Awards, and many, many other events.

Visit the N.S.D.C.'s web site, www.shagnationals.com, to learn about upcoming events and important dates, descriptions of shag divisions, past champions, the Beth Mitchell Memorial Scholarship, and recent news.

The 1999 Championships were held in Myrtle Beach in March.

MOVING?



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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.

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White Oak and The House of Blue Lights

—by Charlie Cline

If you shag, you probably have fond memories or stories of your favorite place to party. Some may go back many years to the old beach pavilions or some local hometown nightspot. Maybe it's the Pad or the old skating rink at Mooresville, North Carolina. Wherever it is, it's special to you.

Those of us that shag in southern West Virginia are fortunate in that we have two of those special places—and they are as different as night and day.

White Oak Country Club is located in the town of Oak Hill. It's not one of those posh, modern clubs. The course is only nine holes. The clubhouse itself is not particularly large, but it does have a certain Southern elegance. The ballroom is located upstairs and will hold about 120 shaggers.

The true beauty of this place is the floor—old solid oak parquet, smooth as anything you ever put shoe leather to. We have most of our monthly meetings there. Business is handled quickly so the party can begin.

But the really special events are our club parties. The kitchen staff turns out a buffet to die for. We have had guests from all over the shag world, and they all say the same thing, "Don't change a thing." Our parties are limited to 120 people. That way, everyone has enough room to eat, socialize, and especially, dance. White Oak is truly unique and we love it.

Maybe not as elegant, but equally as special, is the "Hanger." No, it's not a night club at an airport. It really is an airplane hanger. You see, Jim Hern is a member and past president of our club. Jim has a few "toys"—a plane, a boat, a jet ski or two, and a nifty Porsche.

He needs a place to store all this stuff; hence, the hanger. Oh, I almost forgot. Jim also has a 24' x 24' oak

semi-portable dance floor and a sound system a deejay would kill for.

Bear in mind that this is a small airport—a few daily commuter flights, a few private planes—so it's fairly quiet. That is, until Jim hosts one of his world famous Hanger Parties.

These are casual little affairs. Your finest shag attire is not required. T-shirts and shorts are fine. Everyone brings a covered dish, a lawn chair, and their favorite beverage. If we're lucky, Jim has fired up the smoker and invited two or three turkeys.

Now, you're probably thinking: that doesn't sound all that special. And you would probably be right if that's all there was to a hanger party.

After everyone has eaten, made the rounds to greet friends, had a beer or two just to get in the mood, and just about the time Mead Parsons is getting the sound system fine-tuned, that old hanger undergoes a transformation.

Dick Hyre, resident electrical guru, has wired the hanger with some old, salvaged blue runway lights. There is also a string of blue lights over the dance floor. John and Jean Giesecking have created a large, back-lit SHAG sign, with a shagging couple, which hangs high above on the wall.

When the normal lighting is turned down and all that special lighting is turned on, the old hanger becomes the "House of Blue Lights." The change is startling. The blue lights turn the hanger into someplace your momma told you to stay out of.

During the summer, Jim will open the large powered door on the runway side. A cool mountain breeze will find its way inside across the dance floor. Mead will have the music cranked to an acceptable S.O.S. decibel level.

That's when I'll grab a cold one

and slip out across the tarmac and the runway to the grass beyond. I'll stand there, listen to the music, and watch the best people in the world rock that old hanger.

Then it dawns on me—right at that moment there is no better place to be in the Shag World than the "House of Blue Lights."

If you're ever in our part of the country, give us a call. We are not a large shag club (about 100 members) but we have one heck of a good time.

And maybe, if you're lucky, we'll have something going on at White Oak or the hanger. Then you'll see for yourself how special they are.

Charlie Cline is the founder and former president of the Beckley Area Shag Club in West Virginia and is the 1999 Shagging Icon Award Inductee.

The Panthers and The Jaguars

Two Panthers fans boarded a flight out of Charlotte for Jacksonville. One sat in the window seat, the other in the middle seat. Just before takeoff, a Jaguars fan got on and took the aisle seat next to the Panthers fans.

He kicked off his shoes, wiggled his toes, and was settling in when the Panthers fan in the window seat said, "I think I'll get up and get a Coke."

"No problem," said the Jaguars fan, "I will get it for you."

While he was gone, the Panthers fan picked up the Jaguars' fans shoes and spit in them. When he returned with the Coke, the other Panthers fan said, "That looks good; I think I'll have one too."

Again, the Jaguars fan obligingly went to fetch it. While he was gone, the Panthers fan picked up the shoes and spit in them again. The Jaguars fan returned, and they all sat back and enjoyed the flight into Jacksonville.

As the plane was landing, the Jaguars fan slipped his feet into his shoes and knew immediately what had happened.

"How long must this go on?" the Jaguars fan fumed. "This hostility between our peoples? ... This hatred? ... This animosity? ... This spitting in shoes and pissing in Cokes?"

S.O.S. Is a Party Not To Be Missed

— by J. Mike Felts

Each year I think that there is no way that S.O.S. can outdo itself. But each time, it gets bigger and better. The clubs, the deejays, the music, the dance, the food, the parade, the friendships made—I could go on and on.

It seems like each day only has about 12 to 14 hours in it. There is so much to do that the day seems over before you get half of what you wanted to do, done. I wish I could get work to do that.

I am not sure how many people were at Spring Safari from Twister's Shag Club, but I believe it to be 75 to 80. That's pretty good for a club of only 125 members! We had a blast on the float this year. It was packed with members, and we won second place in the Shag Theme division.

Ellen Taylor's workshops were great. I'm sure that Charlie and Jackie's were, too, but we didn't have time to make one of theirs. (There's only so much time and you can't do it all, even though, some days, Marcia and I try.)

One event that more people should have attended was the gospel singing followed by oyster stew and shrimp and grits at the Pirate's Cove on the second Sunday. Fat Harold's was packed and rocking as usual, and their fish fry was highly attended.

Ducks and Ducks Too were always wide open. I want to give special thanks to Norfleet Jones for taking quite a bit of time to help me learn how to impersonate him effectively on our float.

Elaine and crew at the OD Arcade (TSC's somewhat official hangout) had great parties and food. And all the other clubs had great music, food, and parties. I think that Marcia and I went to them all at least once. She had "forgotten" going to the OD Beach Club, but I had to stop her from entering the men's restroom there. (Do you think she might have wanted to go in? Surely not the sweet, innocent Marcia.)

Anyway, if you were there, you know what I am talking about in this article. S.O.S. is the party of parties. If you weren't, well, you missed it. Going to S.O.S. is a necessity of life for a shagger.

J. Mike Felts has been shagging for almost two years and is a very active member of the Twisters Shag Club.

Think it can't get any bigger and better?
Don't miss Fall Migration!
September 17 - 26, 1999

Upcoming S.O.S. Dates

1999

Fall Migration — September 17-26
 Millennium Party — Dec. 30-Jan. 2, 2000

2000

Mid Winter Classic — January 20-23
 Spring Safari — April 7-16 (new dates)
 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



**FUN MONDAY
 CONTEST: 10 am
 ON MAIN STREET**

*3rd Annual
 Womanless
 Beauty
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Let Us See Your Softer Side!

Contestant: _____
 Entry Name: " _____ "
 Shag Club: _____
 Home Address: _____

 Home Phone: _____
 Work Phone: _____

**Please make your attire discrete
 There will be kids on the street**

Contestants must sign in at
 The SOS Company Store
 9am, Saturday.

Application
 Deadline
 August 31, 1999

Contact: Beth "BusStop" Bowen • (910) 395-4043
 1201 Browning Dr, Wilmington NC 28405

Shag Lounge Hall of Fame Contest

— by Gene "Tootie" Blair & Reamonia Matthews

It is only natural that a Hall of Fame would be established to pay tribute to and honor the shag lounge owners that have had the courage and commitment to shagging to take a risk and open their hearts and lounges and to chronicle and preserve the heritage of the shag culture, as well as to record and preserve the shag lounges of the past and present.

These beach clubs provide a place for each of us to dance, for instructors to teach and promote the growth of shagging, and to form new friendships as well as renew old ones. It is sad to see a lounge close, because it is a part of the history of shagging and the fun and good times that can only be recorded in the memories of the shaggers who were there.

Thus, the Shag Lounge Hall of Fame Foundation's commitment to preserve, record, and honor the lounges of the past and present so that all shaggers are reminded of the places we enjoy so very much; they are and should be more than just a faded memory.

One year ago a contest was established to allow ACSC Association members and other shaggers to elect the top six shag club lounges of their choice. Beach clubs, shag clubs, along with shaggers at large, cast their votes for the lounge they felt should be an inductee. The ballots and vote totals, history, and photographs were sent to the Shag Lounge Hall of Fame Foundation care of Shag Art. The contest is closed, the votes are in, and out of the many beach clubs that participated, the top six winning inductees to the Shag Lounge Hall of Fame are:

FIRST PLACE - Fat Harold's Beach Club, Ocean Drive, SC

SECOND PLACE - Ducks Beach Club, Ocean Drive, SC

THIRD PLACE - Weejun's Beach Club, Irmo, SC

FOURTH PLACE - Bopper's Bar and Boogie, Charlotte, NC

FIFTH PLACE - The Jolly Knave, Atlantic Beach, NC

SIXTH PLACE - Thirsty's Beach Club, Greensboro, NC

Honorary lounge or beach club inductees are the Myrtle Beach Pavilion - Ocean Drive, SC; Atlantic Beach Pavilion - Atlantic Beach, NC; and The Pad - Ocean Drive, SC, since these places were the mecca for the origins and development of shag dance.

Any shagger who has ever experienced a freshly starched oxford cloth shirt, khaki slacks, weejuns and no socks, sand on the dance floor, the Tams on the jukebox, and ice cold beer appreciates a great place to dance. Thus, we pay homage to those lounges, past and present, that allows us to continue "shaggin' through history."

Please write or call us to review next year's Shag Lounge Hall of Fame induction rules or to cast your votes and nominations for next year's inductees. We will also be glad to answer any questions you may have.

The Shag Lounge Hall of Fame Foundation, P. O. Box 9158, North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582, (843) 249-5527, Email: beachod@gte.net

Reprinted (in part) courtesy of www.shagdance.com.

A Tribute to Thurston and Linda Reeder

— by W. Mike York, Jr.

A beautiful era of shagging ended in January; sadly, Linda and Thurston Reeder closed the doors to Thirsty's Beach Club. For many years, this Greensboro couple spent mega-hours promoting their favorite

hobby: shag music and shag dancing.

Members will never forget our home for the Greater Triad Shag Club—the wonderful dance floor surrounded with shag memorabilia, the outstanding dance instructors, many fabulous cookouts, and all the heated business sessions.

Solid friendships were made when people from all walks of life flocked to this fun-filled Mecca, dancing to the music of hall-of-fame deejays, discussing politics and sports, watching professional shag contests, or just laughing and singing along with favorite rhythm and blues tunes.

Seven days a week Linda and Thurston rolled out their red carpet for droves of out-of-towners and boosted the local Greensboro economy. Some shaggers came from out-of-state places such as Richmond and Danville, VA or Columbia and Charleston, SC. But mostly, shaggers came from surrounding towns and hamlets such as Siler City, Kernersville, High Point, Lexington, Asheville, Reidsville, Madison, Eden, Ramseur, Staley, Liberty, Burlington, Mebane, Gibsonville, Durham, Raleigh, and Charlotte, to name just a few.

Genuine, hard working individuals never receive their deserving recognition. Obviously, the number one couple of shag ran the extra mile in boosting the cultural "folk arts" of Greensboro.

"Save the Last Dance" for Linda and Thurston Reeder.

W. Mike York, Jr. is from Staley, NC and is a member of the Greater Triad Shag Club.

An Angel Wrote ...

Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.

Beautiful young people are acts of nature. But beautiful old people are works of art.

The Rhythm 'n Beach Top 40

The Rhythm 'n Beach Radio Network 1505 Elizabeth Ave. Charlotte, NC 28204

for June 12th, 1999

- | | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Unbreak My Heart | Johnny Mathis | Columbia 68893 |
| 2 Stay | Temptations | Polygram 9372 |
| 3 Because of U | 98 Degrees | Polygram 860830 |
| 4 Nobody But You | Fantastic Shakers | Ripete 2274 |
| 5 Goin' Down Geneva | Van Morrison | Pointblank 47148 |
| 6 Mr. Man In The Moon | Tom Jones | Polygram 558186 |
| 7 Finders Keepers (I Could Never Miss You.) | Terri Gore | Forevermore 5014 |
| 8 It's Gonna Rain | Coastline Band | Ripete 2269 |
| 9 My Baby Is The Only One | Bobby Bland | Malaco 7495 |
| 10 Drive Time | M-People | Epic 67037 |
| 11 Mercy's Blues | Finis Tasby | Evidence 26097 |
| 12 Cry To Me | Willie Murphy | muff ugga ATM 1137 |
| 13 Pride & Joy | Otis Rush | House of the Blues 1343 |
| 14 Believe (Beach Doctored Mix) | Cher | WB 47121 |
| 15 Blow Wind Blow | Jimmy Rogers All Stars | Atlantic 83148 |
| 16 I Ain't Giving Up Nothing | Fantastic Shakers | Ripete 2274 |
| 17 Jitterbop | Little Leopold | Hy-Sam 7135 |
| 18 Ay La Bas | Michelle Wilson | Bullseye 9610 |
| 19 Roll Around Rockin' | Billy Scott & Prophets | Flipside ? |
| 20 Blue, Blue World | Roomful of Blues | Bullseye 9609 |
| 21 Gold In a Silver Mine | Johnnie Taylor | Malaco 7488 |
| 22 Blue Eyed Boogie Woogie Blues | Holiday | Ripete 2276 |
| 23 Late At Night | Coastline Band | Ripete 2269 |
| 24 Shake That Thing | Fantastic Shakers | Ripete 2274 |
| 25 No No | J. McCracklin/Mojo BB | Ripete Box 2 |
| 26 Somebody Thowd Bad Luck On Me | James Harman | Cannonball 29107 |
| 27 Dream Girl | Robert & Johnny | Pleasantville Stk. Work 69626 |
| 28 Uhh! | Joe Louis Walker | Polygram 1147 |
| 29 Shortnin' Bread | Tractors | Arista 18878 |
| 30 My Blue Heaven | Mel Carter/Band of Oz | Ripete 2322 |
| 31 She Blew A Good Thing | Holiday Band | Ripete 2276 |
| 32 Teardrops | Elton John & K D Lang | MCA 10926 |
| 33 I Can't Think | Steelers | Ace 2081 |
| 34 Boppin' At The Top Of The Rock | Eddy Clearwater | Bullseye 9614 |
| 35 Bed Bug Boogie | Chizmo Charles | Blues Leaf 9807 |
| 36 Do That To Me One More Time (new entry) | Sissy & Dink | Carlen 2278 |
| 37 I Gamble, I Gamble (new entry) | B. J. Emery | |
| 38 Me & You Last Night | Guitar Shorty | Black Top 1147 |
| 39 I'm Bobby "B" | Bobby Bland | Malaco 7495 |
| 40 Tell Me Baby | B.B. King | MCA 11879 |

MIDDLETONS By Ralph Dunagin and Dana Summers



Traditional dance makes a comeback

Fancy Footwork: The shag is as Lowcountry as oyster roasts and okra, and its popularity is spreading in its native habitat.

— by David Quick

Reprinted from *The Post and Courier, East Cooper, SC, Aug. 13, '98*

Shagging—the official state dance of South Carolina—hasn't had many venues in the East Cooper area, or even in the entire Charleston area, until the past year or so.

If you didn't go to shagging stronghold J.B. Pivots west of the Ashley, you'd have to wait until a beach music song came up at a local dance spot and grab your partner.

But Hungryneck shaggers are taking heart. At least two local shagging events now take place weekly, and what may be the mother of all shagging events—the Charleston Shag Club's 15th annual Geechee Blast [Editor's Note: on August 13-15, '99]—is moving to a larger facility in Mount Pleasant's front yard: Omar Temple Shrine near Patriot's Point.

Shag club volunteer Julie Kemp said the club is excited about the new location and its large dance floor. The Geechee Blast previously was held at the much smaller Sand Dunes Club on Sullivan's Island.

"It's the biggest thing we do every year," Kemp said, adding that the event draws about 600 people—mostly out-of-towners who stay at hotels.

First, a couple of definitions for the benefit of Yankee transplants. While the definition of "Geechee" is a sensitive subject, it's basically a term for long-time Lowcountry residents who have a unique blend of European and African influences in language, food, and culture.

And "shagging," according to local professional shagger Cameron Caruso, is "a variation of East Coast swing with an emphasis on more footwork and usually is danced to

rhythm and blues music." Usually, upbeat beach music.

Local shaggers won't be quite so rusty for the Geechee Blast this year, thanks to weekly shagging events in Mount Pleasant at Blue's House of Wings on Wednesdays and at Ronnie's Cabana on Sundays.

Following in the tradition of the highly popular Jazz on the Creek, Pelican Food System's spokeswoman Linda Boals and shag instructor Kae Childs organized Shagging on the Creek last year at the now-closed Reagan's restaurant. The Breeze Radio Station (WWBZ-FM 98.9) joined in the effort.

Boals said when Reagan's closed, they decided to move the event to Ronnie's Cabana.

Childs, an Isle of Palms resident and counselor at Middleton High School, barely missed a dance at a Shagging on the Creek two Sundays ago.

Childs grew up in Greenville and recalled practicing the dance while holding a door knob. Over the years, she has taught shagging to hundreds of people, including other students at the University of South Carolina so that she could get a physical education credit.

"There's nothing I'd rather do than teach shag," Childs said, adding that she even taught an assistant principal at Middleton to shag.

She looked around the cabana area and said, "I've taught a lot of these people how to shag." She credits The Breeze for helping to elevate shag and beach music in the Charleston area.

Bobby and Lynn Curry, who have been married 42 years, are lifelong shaggers and met a group of about 10 friends at Ronnie's that same evening. They are glad to see shagging closer to home—about a half-mile from their home in The Groves subdivision.

The Currys said they shag every weekend and notice that more

young people are taking lessons in a dance that has become more formal than the "beach shag" tradition of years ago.

Belle Hall subdivision resident Therese Kristiansen has been shagging since attending the College of Charleston in the late 1970s. Unlike Childs and the Currys, the 42-year-old Kristiansen worries that young people aren't interested in shagging. Her 16-year-old son sure isn't.

"I tell him he should learn it because the girls will love him if he can shag. He says, 'Not me, man,'" she said. Kristiansen said shagging is classy and is a dance anyone can do—even at age 90.

The fact that a younger group of men preferred sipping beer to shagging didn't seem to bother 32-year-old James Islander Tina Nadzak.

She shagged up a storm with her godfather Danny Albers, which makes her recall her youth.

Singer Bobby Ryder, the guest musician at Shagging on the Creek that night, is a shagging convert of sorts. Ryder sings at the Regatta Lounge at the Hilton Resort on Hilton Head Island.

The New Jersey native who moved to the Lowcountry 14 years ago was singing in a nightclub when a man asked him: "Can you play some shag music?" Ryder recalled.

"Play what? I didn't know what the (heck) he was talking about," Ryder said. Ryder has parlayed the experience into a "autobiographical" beach music song on his new album, *Back to the Shore*. The song's title is *We're All Here to Shag*.

Editor's Note: For more information on the Shagging on the Creek event, now in its third season, which is held each Sunday evening from 7:30 till 10 p.m. at Ronnie's Cabana Bar on Shem Creek in Mt. Pleasant, SC (Charleston) during spring and summer, contact Lynda Boals at P.O. Box 519, Mount Pleasant SC 29465; phone (843) 884-0838.

A Reverend's Wife Recalls Her Day

The other day I went into the local religious bookstore where I saw a "Honk if you love Jesus" bumper sticker. I bought it, and put in on the back bumper of my car. I'm really glad that I did. An uplifting experience followed.

I had stopped at the light of a busy intersection, lost in thought about the Lord, and didn't notice that the light had changed. That bumper sticker really worked! I found lots of people who love Jesus.

The boy behind me started to honk like crazy. He must *really* love the Lord because a moment later he leaned out his window and yelled, "Jesus Christ" as loud as he could. You would have thought he was at a football game the way he was yelling, "Go. Jesus Christ, Go!"

Pretty soon everyone else started honking their horns, too, so I leaned out my window and waved at all those loving people. There must have been a guy from Florida back there because I could hear him yelling something about a "sunny beach."

Then I saw him waving in a unique way, using only his middle finger. I asked my two children what that meant. They kind of squirmed, looked at each other, and then told me it was a Hawaiian good luck sign. So, I leaned out the window and gave him the good luck sign back!

A couple of people were so caught up in the joy of the moment that they got out of their cars and were walking towards me. I bet they wanted to pray. But just then, I noticed cars were moving and the light had changed. I stepped on the gas.

It's a good thing I did because I was the only one to get across the intersection. I looked back at them standing there and leaned out the window so I could give them one last Hawaiian good luck wave as I drove away. Praise the Lord for such wonderful people. — Source: The Internet

The Top 14 Things Bill Clinton Would Say if He Were in "Star Wars"

14. "Well, it depends on your definition of 'father', Luke."

13. "Who knew the Jedi Mind Trick could work on 250 million people all at once?"

12. "I absolutely support the use of droids in the military... Okay, now I don't."

11. "Oh-h-h, you're looking for a little wookiee ...Well, that's different."

10. "Luke, I am your father. Obi-Wan, I'm your father, too. And that Queen chick? I'm her daddy for sure. And Leia's. And Lando's, Boba Fett's, Jabba the Hutt's, Chewie's..."

9. "Wretched hive of scum and villainy? Woo-hoo, count me in!"

8. "I think the American people would like a little more bass in my theme music."

7. "Dispose of that troublesome young Jedi, Vince Skyfoster — and make it look like a suicide."

6. "I did not have sexual relations with that wookiee, Ms. Chewinsky."

5. "It's a long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away — and I'm still a lyin' weasel."

4. "Cholesterol does not concern me, Admiral. I want that Big Mac, not excuses."

3. "Sorry about that lightsaber, Sugar. Just consider it laser dental work."

2. "These are not the droids you're looking for, Ma'am. Say, it's getting hot in here — you might want to take off your top."

And Topfive.com's Number 1 Thing Bill Clinton Would Say if He Were in *Star Wars*...

1. "She's my sister?!? Well, back on my home planet of Arkansas, that ain't an obstacle!"

— Source: The Internet

My Old Shagging Trip Buddy

(Continued from Page 22)

around the beach. They started arresting each other because even they couldn't remember all those tricky ordinances.

"We cleaned house. Burned the jail, burned the records, and tried to burn the judge and police chief, but the federal marshalls stepped in. However, the judge, chief, and many cops have been working the county farm for years. Listen, I may exaggerate a little (but not much). Since then we have come back strong. We miss you guys and would like to have you back."

Wow! Dewey would do a pivot in his grave if he knew we had beaten a criminal court system.

Seeing how pleased I was, the sergeant said, "Now that I've brought you up to date, my fee will be for you to teach me a new trail step."

I worked with him a little (but not much). He was a fast learner.

I danced on air out of the station but still had one regret. Although urged to, I had refrained from running for public office in fear this old record might surface. Who knows? By now I might be Governor. I believe that a little (but not much).

Anyway, now you know how the shag began the first migration to Ocean Drive. Also why I did not grow up on the beach. Never became a lifeguard. Never called bingo. Never sold cotton candy and rented beach chairs and floats. Never knew the great old beachcombers.

Probably kept me out of the Shaggers Hall of Fame. I like to believe that a little (but not much)!

Bill Clnard has been a long-time contributor to the "Carefree Times." He and Bev live in N. Myrtle Beach.

Good Fortune



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