

SOS Carefree Times

2024 Winter

Online Edition

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE BEACH
STAYS AT THE BEACH



Mid-Winter 2025



SOS President Ron Whisenant

Greetings of the Season!

Greetings everyone! The Fall Migration is in the past and the holiday season is upon us. Thanksgiving is a time to reflect upon what we have accomplished through our daily lives and share with others our accomplishment and good fortune. We celebrate this day with family and close friends.

If you need a tip on shopping for Christmas gifts, give the gift that keeps on giving! An SOS 2025 membership. Much desired! Most enjoyed! The Christmas season is for sharing our love through gifts with family and close friends. Celebrate the season with joy, love and forgiveness for everyone!

Celebrate Christmas! Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our lord and savior!
Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! Ron



ACSC Chairman Robin Morley

Greetings Shag Friends,

It's the most wonderful time of the year!!!! It's always a magical time when our shag community shares in fun, fellowship, parades, dance contests, meetings, pot luck dinners, charity events and dancing. I have been reading ACSC club newsletters and it is so apparent what a generous and caring community we are. So many shag clubs are continuously giving and raising money for those in need and preparing for the time of giving. I

can truly say that I am proud to be involved in such an incredible community.

A special thank you to each person that kept our Hurricane Helene victims at heart. Supplies, monetary gifts, cards, and prayers certainly were given by our shag community.

Our paradise of NMB certainly keeps busy with continued shag and dance events throughout the year, so if you are visiting, I feel sure you will find a favorite club that will be hosting another spectacular shag event. A special thanks to each of you for the role that you play in our shag world. It takes each of you to make our shag community the successful organization that it is today.

As the holidays are upon us a New Year is not far beyond. A special thanks to those that have served as ACSC club presidents and officers in 2018. I know that you have made a positive impact on your club. With regards to the new presidents and officers of 2025, we welcome you. To each of the ACSC clubs we wish for your continued success and a very prosperous New Year.

In closing, I hope you have a safe and wonderful holiday season. Enjoy this time with family and friends. We will see you in January for Mid Winter!

Blessings, Robin Morley, ACSC Chairman



SOS Board Chairman Ronnie Gregory

Greetings Shaggers and Friends,
What a great Fall Migration. We all enjoyed it, even though the weather for Fun Monday did not cooperate, the Enhancement Committee pulled it together inside of Harold's and the OD Arcade. Many thanks to Lulu and Elaine and their staff for stepping up and helping us to get it organized.

The holiday season is here and SOS hopes every one of you have a safe and prosperous New Year. We still have many of our friends who are still dealing with the tragedy of the Hurricanes. SOS foundation, like many of the Shag Clubs have stepped up to support them financially and any other way we can. 2025 is fastly approaching and I know all of us and you are hoping for a prosperous New Year. The SOS Board and I know that all the Shag Clubs are looking forward to growing SOS. I am encouraged that when we all work together and support each other and our dance, SOS and our Local Clubs will begin to grow and prosper.

Mid-Winter will soon be here, and I look forward to seeing and talking with each of you. Stay safe and we will see you in January.

Ronnie, SOS Board Chair



SOS Carefree Times Editor Janet Harrold

Welcome to the 2024 Winter issue of the SOS Carefree Times. Please scroll through the entertainment on SOS facebook and website (www.shagdance.com) at all clubs for New Year's Eve, and SOS Midwinter in January...find your favorite dee jays and bands. If you are in the mood for shopping there are stores on Main Street that may give a discount if you present your SOS cards that you have purchased for 2024. The 2025 SOS cards are available for sale at the SOS clubs and the SOS Company Store.

The Company Store has been remodeled just for you to check out other SOS memorabilia.

Hopefully, the winter won't bring too much cold weather. If so, we can warm up in the Spring at the SOS Parade. . This will be the 30th Annual Parade since it began in 1995.

Hope all had a Happy Thanksgiving and enjoy being in Ocean Drive for New Year's Eve and SOS Midwinter.

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Thank YOU to all of the Contributors to our SOS Carefree Times! Without the help of everyone who contributed, this paper would still be Just Another Newsletter!



Dear SOS members,

The SOS membership will increase \$10 beginning in January 2025. This is the first increase SOS has incurred since 1990, some 35 years ago. The increase is necessary for SOS to continue the services rendered by the SOS organization. During the covid pandemic SOS did not sell any memberships during the no assembly periods imposed upon us in 2020 and 2021. The 2020 SOS membership was honored thru 2021 because of covid. Sales in 2022 were low as well. The past three years of post-covid pandemic, sales are down 35%, while cost of services has continued. SOS has managed the business for the past three years, making the necessary adjustments to operate on reserves to supplement current sales. We have reached the point that an increase is necessary. The cost of an SOS membership of \$45 equates to less than \$2 per day for the 24 days of SOS events.

SOS membership gives you three great events per year. A four-day party in January, Spring Safari, ten days of absolute unadulterated fun and dancing, and the infamous Fall Migration ten days of glory in the garden of shag, Ocean Drive Beach. There is no other place like Ocean Drive Beach, located in NMB, SC. This unique little paradise is home to SOS. SOS offers a ten-day dance event, in four SOS affiliated beach clubs within one block of each other. These clubs are filled with dance parties, ACSC clubs' tea parties, shag contests, parades, outdoor music festivals, shuttle service, shopping, restaurants, a beautiful beach with beach parties hosted by different shag clubs, all encompassed within two city blocks of each other. SOS offers this menu twice as a ten-day event in April and September, plus a four-day event in January as a dance party in the SOS affiliated clubs. SOS membership includes three great events for one price. The best deal in the shag world.

SOS is a private party, provided by Society of Stranders, Inc., aka SOS! Your SOS membership card presented at the door will be your invitation to all SOS clubs, offering the best party, best DJs and bands on the beach. Without the SOS card, the price of admission has increased to \$20/person daily to enter SOS affiliated SOS venues,

As an SOS member, you are part of a world-class organization with a storied history of its beginning, the reason for its exitance and why it has lasted for the past 45 years. Your support being an SOS member will continue the SOS experience.

SOS started as a dream of an old lifeguard that worked on Ocean Drive Beach in the early to mid-1950s. He wanted to see some of the old friends he had made during his time at the beach. He had no contact list or phone numbers, so he created a hoax (the message in a bottle, tossed into the surf) to broadcast his message of invitation. The bottle was found and authenticated as being real and published by newspapers and magazines all over the Carolinas. Old jitterbugs far and wide received the words SOS-the Raven is rocking off the Carolina coast-Captain Earl Bostic. So it began, a reunion of friends in September 1980 at the Oak Tree Inn, Ocean Drive Beach. The dance of the time, shag, along with its distinctive music was alive and well. The reunion of friends began.

Live the Dream! Become an SOS member! Join a local shag club! Learn to shag! Enjoy life!

Ron Whisenant

2025 OD Arcade & Lounge New Year Celebration



Tuesday, Dec. 31 7-Close
New Year's Eve
DJ JJ Kinlaw

No Cover Champagne Toast &
Party Favors at Midnight*



We will close from 6:30-7pm to decorate for New Years Eve. Doors will open at 7pm

SOS Mid-Winter DJ Schedule

Thursday, Jan. 16

12-4 Tommy Samole
4-8 Gene Hensley
8-till JJ Kinlaw

Friday, Jan. 17

12-4 Gene Hensley
4-8 Tommy Samole
8-till Furman Dominick

Saturday, Jan. 18

12-4 Gene Hensley
4-8 Furman Dominick
8-till JJ Kinlaw

*Be sure to join us for the BEST Burger on the Beach! * 100 South Ocean Blvd. * 843-249-6460*



2025 ACSC Winter Workshop

*Meeting held in
Spanish Galleon
OD Resort*

Join your ACSC
(Association of Carolina Shag Clubs)
Leaders at our Winter Meeting

*2025 SOS Mid-Winter
January 16 - January 19, 2025*

SOS Spring Safari Parade 2025
30th Anniversary
1PM Saturday
May 3, 2025

Parade Theme:

Party
★
LIKE IT'S

1995

ALL SHAG CLUBS ARE WELCOME!

Be sure to visit the SOS website for all the information you need. www.shagdance.com. Floats, Golf Carts, Old Cars, Trucks, Walkers, Dancers, etc! Come have a great time and let's party like it's 1995!
Terry & Kathy McCoy, SOS Parade Chairs



2025 Sanctioned CSA Contest Schedule

January 11

Charleston Shag Classic Charleston, SC

March 21-22

**Atlantic Beach Shag Club @ Memories
Atlantic Beach, NC**

April 11-12

Loafers Beach Club Raleigh, NC

June 21

Midway Music Hall Winston-Salem, NC

July 11-12

Lynn's Dance Club Charlotte, NC

August 9

Eno Beach Shag Club Durham, NC

August 29 – 30

**Fat Harold's Beach Club
North Myrtle Beach, SC**

October 4

Shag Shack Augusta, GA

October 24 -25

Seaboard Shag Contest Hamlet, NC

November 15

Capital Shag Club Lexington, SC

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SWING YOUR WAY INTO UNFORGETTABLE FUN

Let the good times roll as you enjoy live beach music, dance performances, and more. Whether you're a professional shag dancer or looking to take lessons, North Myrtle Beach welcomes you to dance the night away.

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BEACH

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Shag Life Tags & MUCH MORE*



**Shag Life will be available during
2025 SOS Mid-Winter
Thursday 1/16, Friday 1/17 and
Saturday 1/18! We appreciate
your Visit & Business!**

Hall of Fame Foundation
presents a Fundraiser

Vegas at the Beach

NOV. 15 & 16, 2024

WOW!!!!

That is all I can say!!! If you build it, they will come! The Hall of Fame Foundation Fundraising 'Vegas at the Beach' held at the Spanish Galleon was a great success! **We are so excited to have exceeded our goal for the donation to the Hurricane Helene victims and thrilled to announce that we raised over \$35,000.** Thank you so much to all the sponsors, donors, those that purchased tickets, and those who donated auction items! Thanks to the crowds that were great both nights and I know everyone had a LARGE time. You can always count on Jim Quick and the Coastline Band to fill the house! Then Saturday night, the Vegas Night, was fun filled with poker, black jack, roulette, and craps. We billed the weekend as 'the party you don't want to miss' and I think it was exactly that! A huge thank you to every single person involved in making this happen. Doesn't it make you feel good to do something so selfless to help those in need!!

THANK YOU!!

Candy Long, Hall of Fame Board of Directors

Photos by: Dan Summitt, OD Mafia and Candy Long



Hall of Fame Foundation
presents a Fundraiser

Vegas at the Beach

NOV. 15 & 16, 2024

*Friends Offering Friends a
Helping Hand in a time of need!*

The Hall of Fame Foundation is entering its 34th year assisting those in need throughout the Southeast but mostly in the Carolinas. In 2024 the Board Members decided to raise funds for the Hurricane Helene flood victims in Western North and South Carolina by hosting a new fundraiser instead of their annual golf tournament. On the weekend of November 15 & 16 a "Vegas at the Beach" event was held in the Spanish Galleon at the OD Resort. Everyone was invited to participate in this fundraiser by becoming a sponsor, donor or just by purchasing an event ticket. That would give them the opportunity to enjoy Jim Quick and Coastline band on Friday night and participate in a professionally handled casino night on Saturday. Game winnings were paid in tickets (in lieu of cash) and these tickets could be used to win nice prizes during a live auction and silent auction. We would like to thank all the sponsors, donors and attendees for making this a successful fundraiser. Also, we truly appreciate the many donors who send memorials and contributions throughout the year so the Foundation can continue its mission of "FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS."

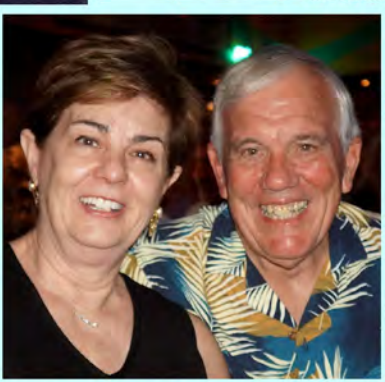
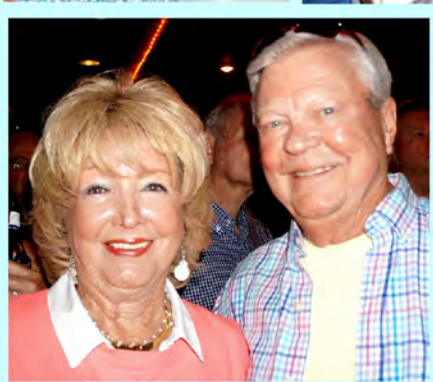
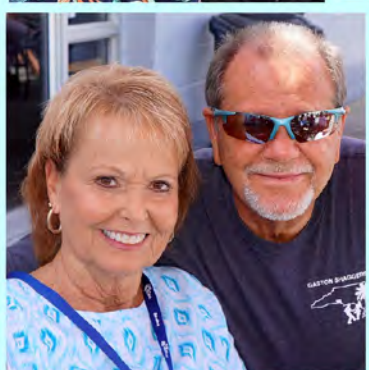
By: Nick Mathis

Chairman Hall of Fame Foundation



Please visit our Hall of Fame Foundation website to view a list of the \$500 Sponsors and Donors. We keep adding to this list and are overjoyed at the giving hearts that support HOFF. Our website is full of information for you to follow www.halloffamefoundation.org

Fun Monday



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SOS
Cards Available

CELEBRATE
NEW YEAR'S
HERE!



2025 SOS Mid-Winter

Wednesday, Jan 15
KICK-OFF PARTY
Deb Browning and
Marlissa Kay Small 6-9

Sat. Jan. 18
DJ Gene Sistare 12-4
DJ Steve Carter 4-7
Pepper Creek Band 7-11

Thursday, Jan. 16
DJ Gene Sistare 2-6
DJ - TBD 6-10

Sunday, Jan. 19
Rick Strickland &
Lesa Hudson 3-6
Jeff James 7-10

Friday, Jan. 17
DJ Gene Sistare 12-3
Ray Scott Deck Party 3-7
Marsha Morgan Band 7-10

**Subject to change
without notice**

BEACH DESIGNS



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Shaggers**
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FALL BASH 2024



**Mountain Empire Shag Society Inc.
Friday, October 18th & Saturday, October 19th**

Well, another Fall Bash which MESS has been hosting since 1994 has come and gone. Even with hurricane Helene trying to shut us down, we pulled it off with huge success. Larry "Bigfish" Calhoun made 4 trips thru the "closed area" of I-26 to ensure attendees coming thru Asheville could get to the party via I-26 because every map app and website showed I-26 being closed in Erwin, TN. They all made it safe and sound.

The Jericho Shrine Temple in Kingsport, TN is a great dance venue. The facility is beautiful with a dance floor that shaggers absolutely love. Another thing the shaggers loved was the ability to get to and from the dance floor without having to squeeze through. The Shriners provided excellent shuttle service to both hotels only 3/4 of a mile away for the entire weekend.

As always, our famous Friday hospitality with home-cooked foods and plenty of sodas, water, wine, beer, and our famous MESS-a-holic punch kept everyone fat and happy.

Our Saturday, the early bird Bloody Mary session got the day started prior to another great shag lesson by Tobitha and Ashley Stewart. The lesson geared everyone up for the soup and subs lunch, and of course the "liquids" were flowing again.

The catered dinner on Saturday evening kicked off the final night, and once again everyone had full bellies. Then the "liquids" kicked in and everyone was happy.

Buck Crumpton and Larry "Bigfish" Calhoun kept the dance floor hot all weekend. The shaggers loved that slick and smooth parquet dance floor that doesn't require any kind of powder or wax.

Even though our party is limited to 250 people, our 50/50's were fruitful with \$520 to the winner on Friday night and \$680 on Saturday night. The club uses their portion to make a donation to a worthy cause which has not yet been named.

It took a village of people to pull this thing off, and we appreciate every person who helped. Our Fall Bash 2025 is tentatively scheduled for October 17th and 18th 2025.



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As Thomas Real Estate, Inc. recognizes its 60th anniversary (1962-2022), our celebratory theme – **Touching Lives. Making Memories.** – clearly applies to our loyal Society of Stranders!



Touching Lives. Making Memories.

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Important Dates for SOS 2025

**SOS Mid Winter and
Winter Workshop
January 16-19**

**SOS Spring Safari
April 24-May 4**

**SOS Fall Migration
September 11-21**



SOS & Ocean Drive

By: Vickie Harrison

There once was a land far far away.
Where dancing & music was part of the day.
Where we feel the ocean breeze on our face
And our lives are set at a gleeful pace.
Happy shaggers start filling the street
Looking for friends they are destined to meet
Our hearts are full with memories we made
And wonderful good times that will never fade.
As we dance with each other hand 'n hand
Our hearts know SOS will forever stand!
Home of the Shag will always be Ocean Drive
Where our good times and memories
will forever thrive



SHAGGERS HOLIDAY

Shagging In Charleston, SC
A city rich in history, beauty and what else.....
Shag Dancing!

The Islanders Shag Club was founded in 1985 on Folly Beach, SC. Over the years, we have danced at various venues around Charleston and even had our own clubhouse on the beach at one time. This is where Shaggers Holiday began. The idea of past President and ICON Billy Grayson. Like many venues, it became too expensive to continue with the clubhouse and Shaggers Holiday, so it was stopped for many years. With the help of our present board, President Jo Patrick Simokat, Vice President Terry Allen, Treasurer Dianne Patrick Dyches, Secretary Robin Hunt, and SGT at Arms Henry Hicks, John Brooks, Eric Horton and Sharon Johnson, one of the most fantastic parties was brought back to the Lowcountry!!

Shaggers Holiday offers a weekend of dancing in Charleston, SC and recently, was back again for the 5th year and was by far, the best one yet!! It was held on Aug 23 and 24, 2024 with 250 in attendance for weekend of drinking, eating and dancing! What could be better!

Our awesome weekend DJs which were Alan Stokes, Brooks Lee, Walter Upchurch and Dwayne "Chainsaw" Little who kept the dance floor packed the entire weekend. The variety of music was fantastic, and we even had a few people singing along to their old favorites. Nikki Kontoulas and Alan Stokes headed up our workshop on Saturday and had over 100 in attendance.

Let's also not forget the fantastic food that was brought to you on Friday by the Elks Lodge 242 and then Saturday a lunch of Lowcountry Boil and a Baked Potato Bar for dinner brought to you by Simokat Brothers Catering. Mike and Joey always out do themselves with the food!

So let's start planning!!!! You do not want to miss out of this event!!! Mark you calendar, it will be back Aug 22 and 23, 2025. There might even include a pre party on Thursday. Who knows, all I can say, is the best is yet to come! **SAVE THE DATE!**

Respectfully, Jo Patrick Simokat



Picture Perfect 2024 Fall SOS



Click Here for more PHOTOS

BEACH SHAGGERS NATIONAL HALL OF FAME 2024 INDUCTION

By: Maureen Little Photos by: Max Madrin

The 41st year of celebrating the Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame was held the weekend of October 11th and 12th at The Spanish Galleon in North Myrtle Beach. The celebration began on Friday evening with Eddie Anderson keeping the dance floor full. It was a great time to catch up with friends, listen and dance to wonderful music, and to revel in the new inductees' joy of being selected into the Hall of Fame Class of 2024.

On Saturday evening, our DeeJay was Craig Jennings, who masterfully worked with each of the inductees for music selection and then also managed to keep the floor full during breaks. The induction festivities were kicked off with a welcome from North Myrtle Beach's Mayor, Marilyn Hatley. Maureen Little, President of the Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame, introduced members of the Executive Board and the Advisory Board and thanked them for their generous donation of time and energy to make this weekend a special time for the inductees and all who were attending. She then recognized those Hall of Famers who were inducted in the 1980's and were in attendance: Ellen Taylor, Babs McIntosh, and Vera Munn Williams.

A special gift was presented to the Hall of Fame Foundation from the Arnold King Family. Arnold was inducted in 2014 and unfortunately passed away in 2019. In his estate, Arnold wished to donate \$5,000 to the Foundation and his family matched that gift for a generous donation totaling \$10,000. What a tribute this was to Arnold, a life well-lived, and friends helping friends.

Bob Myrick, Vice-President and Chairman of the Keepers of the Dance, asked for all Keepers of the Dance to come to the front steps while he introduced our two newest Keepers of the Dance. It was amazing to see the number of Keepers in attendance and the fine young women and men these folks have grown to be. Our two newest Keepers are Sydney Kemble West and Kyler Byrum. After listening to their remarks and watching their dancing, it was evident as to why these two were selected as Keepers of the Dance for 2024.

Maureen was joined by Danny Johnson, Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer, at the podium to begin introductions of the newest members of the Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame. Our 2024 Class of Hall of Famers includes Jennifer Batten, Janis Grimes, Judy Martin, Cathy Williams, Byron Caulk, Jim Faircloth, William Greene, Grayson Smith, and Rodney Williams. Each inductee gave heartfelt remarks and danced beautifully. Again, it was quite obvious as to why these individuals were selected.

The 2025 parties are planned for March 14th and 15th, when the new inductees will be announced and then October 10th and 11th for the Induction Ceremony weekend. These are the best two parties on the beach and we would love to have you join us. The cost is \$60 per person and includes both weekend events. You can mail checks, payable to BSNHOF, to PO Box 299, North Myrtle Beach SC 29597. Please include your name, address, email address, and phone number. It will not be the same without each of you!

See you on the dance floor, Maureen, Bob, Danny, and Nick

2024 Female Inductees

Janice Grimes Booth
Cathy Stewart Williams
Jennifer Duke Batten
Judy Martin

2024 Male Inductees

Jim Faircloth
Rodney Williams
William Greene
Grayson Smith

BSNHOF Honorary: Byron Caulk

Keepers of the Dance



Sydney Loree Kemble-West
Kyler Byrum



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The Company Store

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(located beside OD Arcade)

*Merry
Christmas
& a Happy
New Year*



Please visit our
store during
2025 Mid-Winter

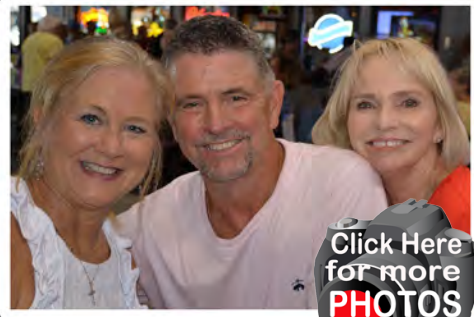
Open

Thursday, January 16

Friday, January 17

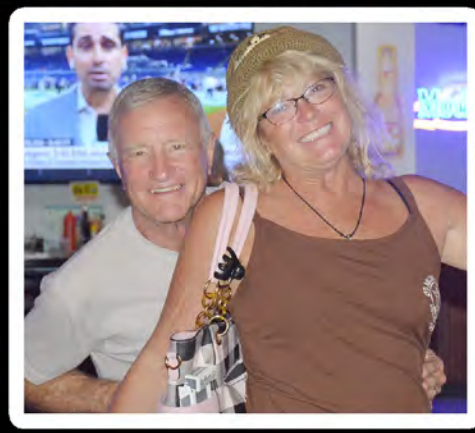
Saturday, January 18

We appreciate your business and your continued support throughout the years



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PHOTOS

50+ Fall Migration





34th ANNUAL

DJ THROWDOWN BACK TO BASICS



FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1, 2025

ALL DJs

MUSIC BEGINS 6 PM ON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 27th
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2024 Carolina Beach Music Awards



Female Vocalist
Rhonda McDaniel

Male Vocalist
Gary Lowder

Rising Star
Bridger Warlick

Song of the Year
"Another Day"
Too Much Sylvia

Group Album of the Year
"In The Moment"
Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot

Entertainer of the Year
Gary Lowder

Smoothie of the Year
"I'll Be Loving You Always"
Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot

Internet DJ
Johnny Barkley
Riptideradio.com

Radio DJ (Ted Bell Award)
Eric Bowman
99.1 FM / WDZD
Monroe, NC

Syndicated Radio Show
"Swamp Soul"
Jim Quick & Bo Gilbert

Internet Radio Show
"Carolina Beach Party"
Johnny Barkley

Internet Radio Station
Riptideradio.com
Scott, Henriksen & Dennis

National Dance Song
"Broke"
Teddy Swims & Thomas Rhett

Group of the Year
Too Much Sylvia

Club (Bill Griffin Award)
OD Arcade
North Myrtle Beach, SC

Live Music Venue
(Cecil Corbett Award)
Deckerz
N. Myrtle Beach, SC

Event of the Year
Ocean Drive Beach Music Festival
2024 – N. Myrtle Beach, SC

Shad Alberty Award
Brennar Goree &
Autumn Jones

FM Radio Station
99.1 FM WDZD
Monroe, NC

Club/ Mobile DJ
Jay Kinlaw

Producer
Ricky Fox
"Wildfire"
Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot

Engineer
Scott Frazier
"Wildfire"
Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot

Collaboration or Duo
"Wildfire"
Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot
ft. Joe Morris

Song Writer(s)
Rick Lee
"Another Day"
Too Much Sylvia

Michael Branch Award
Bo Gilbert
Bo The Webguy

Instrumentalist
Daniel Morris, Saxophone
Band Of Oz

Live Production Award
Bob Blair
Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot

Radio Show Of The Year
Surf Countdown w Jay Kinlaw
Jay Kinlaw & Bo Gilbert

Concert Series Of The Year
Music on Main (Horseshoe)
N. Myrtle Beach, SC

Industry Appreciation
Robert Honeycutt
Bo Neucomb
Gregg Browder

CBMA Appreciation
Ken Horner

Fans of the Year
Steven & Pam Styers

Music Video
"Another Day"
Too Much Sylvia

Hall of Fame Inductees 2024

Individuals:
Bobby Simmons
Pat Carpenter
John Brady
Clint Horton
JK Loftin
David Floyd

DJ:
Luke Vail

Station:
WSGE 91.7 FM

Lifetime Achievement:
Keith Houston (Band of Oz)
David Hicks (Band of Oz)
Chuck French (Band of Oz)
David Henson
Jim Shafer