

A Brief History of S.O.S

By Phil Sawyer

SOS. The Society of Stranders was born on a brilliant fall weekend in 1980, when over 4000 "Stranders" returned to Ocean Drive Beach where they had summered as life guards, pavilion workers, bingo callers, and beach bums for a reunion. It was immediately obvious that this would become an annual event.

Throughout the mid to late 1980's SOS grew in strength and character. Shaggers and Stranders came back to Ocean Drive in the spring and fall by the tens of thousands for what everyone agreed was the finest parties for adults in the entire country. Everyone who ever had one grain of sand in his or her shoes agreed that SOS was great for the Grand Strand, and to miss one was unthinkable.

In 1989, the originator and owner of SIS, for business and personal reasons could not continue to run it. He sold it to the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs, which has continued and enhanced the great tradition.

SOS enjoys unprecedented growth. Many exciting features have been added. The trams, the food, the expanded Carefree Times, Line Dance Competition, the SOS Beach Run, and Fun Monday are Association initiatives. Funds for SOS support local club activities, the Association budget, the Mid-Winter Beach Classic and charities.

Through effective leadership and dynamic cooperation by all interest at the beach, SOS will continue well into the 21st century.

It will stand!