



THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CAROLINA SHAG CLUBS

The Association of Carolina Shag clubs, Inc. is an organization of autonomous shag clubs whose purpose is to

- provide for communications among the clubs
- serve as a coordinating body for club activities
- provide education to the Shag Club Officers
- sponsor activities of mutual interest to all clubs
- to own, manage and operate SOS

The goal of the ACSC is to:

- promote and preserve the heritage of beach music and shag dancing
- to inform its members of beach music and shagging activities of wide interest
- to help diminish schedule conflicts among its members activities
- to assist groups that wish to establish shag clubs.

The phrase ‘strength in numbers’ always comes to mind when someone asks me why their club should be in the Association. We are all of the same mindset, to preserve and promote The Carolina Shag. I would bet that those words are in your clubs mission statement. While a local club carries strength in your community, it does not translate to strength of the whole shag community if not associated with all the other clubs. We are a family. We stick together. We love the same thing. Our goal should be to support our own clubs, but also to support the collective goal of saving the dance. There is a wealth of information that each club can share with each other. What have you tried that worked? What was not so successful and why? How do you recruit and retain new members? How do you show appreciation to your members? How can we provide a successful and entertaining workshop with information that will inspire, educate, and encourage other clubs?

The ACSC is the glue, the common denominator. But we need your participation to be of most use to YOU. What struggles are you having? What roadblocks hinder growth? Communication should not just be within your team, but shared with all the other clubs. Brainstorming and/or experience can be a phenomenal resource to solving problems.

How can ACSC help your club? Would you like a quarterly newsletter to spread the news about club activities? How about an ACSC Facebook page? Or would you prefer emails? What topics would you like us to research and present at the meetings?

Any of these things require a two way street. If you have a concern, contact me. I will do my best to find an answer. Other clubs may be experiencing the same dilemma.

Being a member of ACSC ensures that you are not alone. There are so many people who want this dance and lifestyle to survive. Let’s all work together to get the best ideas!



ACSC HISTORY

The ASCS was founded in 1984. Ken Hudspeth, then president of Rock Hill Shag Club, gathered the Presidents of the Clubs attending the 2nd Annual Columbia Invitational in October of 1983. He suggested a low-key organization of Clubs in SC and Atlanta to share ideas, exchange information and to sponsor a party for the clubs at the beach in January. Harold Bessent also met with them and endorsed the idea. Ken and the RHSC arranged for the first of what was to become Midwinter Beach Classic in January of 1984. Participating clubs were Columbia, Charleston, Greenville, Shag Steps, Rock Hill, and Winnsboro. The Presidents of local clubs continued their efforts to form an organization. Ken and Phil Sawyer, then president of Columbia Shag Club, formulated the concept and developed a Charter. The Presidents agreed that the organization would be called The Association of Carolina Shag Clubs. The original charter provided for the Association to be governed by a Board of Advisors consisting of the president of each shag club. The first Chairman was Ron Whisonant. The ACSC continued to grow over the years with more clubs joining. Our membership includes about 84 clubs that are located in the following states: Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Over the years, we have greatly improved our ability to communicate with Shag Clubs around the country by using our website located at www.shagdance.com and our SOS Society of Shaggers Facebook Page. These two communication tools allow clubs to gain access to a multitude of information about our member Shag Clubs and their events. Recently, ACSC/SOS also completed an SOS app. This lists all the happenings at SOS events and becomes a handy tool to know where your favorite ABSCDJ's and bands are playing. The home page of Shagdance.com has instructions for how to download this app on your phone.

ACSC continues to offer educational workshops through the years to assist individual clubs. We also provide a network of people who can assist clubs in specific areas of interest