

# Boogie Business



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Lake Hickory  
Shag Club

*Promoting and Preserving Shagging and the Heritage of Beach Music*



## President's Corner

Welcome to our monthly club newsletter. We will be featuring articles from our roving reporters with interesting stories and other features in the coming months. If you have an article you would like to submit for printing please send it to me at: [jmldn1@charter.net](mailto:jmldn1@charter.net). Also if you would like to suggest any other additions and/or changes to improve your newsletter please let us know.

Jim Mauldin

President

## Shag Blues News

Best Party Ever....by Mike Honeycutt

*Most of us can't make every party. That's the great thing about having friends that shag. When shag friends get together and party, usually after a few adult beverages we exchange information on different parties. Someone will say "did you go to the "Shag-a-Bling" party this year? Yeah it was OK, the drink prices were a little steep and the music wasn't all that good, the floor sucked, people were not friendly, and everybody was gone at 10:00. A few more friends show up and someone asked about the "Shagville Boogie"? Oh man it was great! This is BYOB, good music, great floor, we really loved it! Few more friends show up and I opened my Big Mouth and asked about the "Boogie Tron". Well it turned out everyone was there but me so they start to fill me in on what I missed.....Oh man they had free shuttles to the party, free drinks on the way to the party. Once you got there it was a sit down dinner with open bar for the rest of the night, a huge dance floor and the Best Ever music till late in the night. The people were so nice and friendly and we had a Ball! Closed the party down at 2:00. So sorry you missed it Pal. Well I'll try to make it next year. Oh this was the last year they are having it! So the BEST PARTY EVER is the one your sorry A\_\_ missed.*



## CLUB OFFICERS

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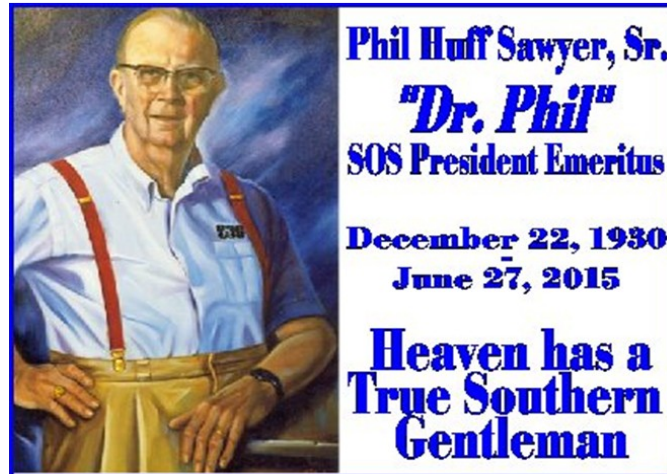
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## Past President

Rosemary Clark

# Passing of Shaggers World ICON!



Reprint from S.O.S. Home Page

## Phil's Introduction to Shagging.... (Reprinted from Dr. Phil Sawyer)

By all odds, I should have been hanging around the filling station learning how to put hot patches on red rubber inner tubes and fix carburetors. That's what boys in rural South Carolina during the early 40s did. But instead, I was hanging around the only store in Sally South Carolina that sold records playing Harry James and Benny Goodman, and learning to dance. We did a pretty fair country jitterbug from what we saw in the WWII movies (Stage Door Canteen). I first saw shagging at the Roberts Pavilion at Ocean Drive in 1945. I was smitten. In those days, no one taught you to dance, you had to watch and learn yourself. So watch we did and practice we did and somehow we learned to do it.

That little skill paid rich dividend throughout my years at the university of South Carolina. Only about 5% of the male students could "fast dance". Those of us who could reaped great benefits. I danced my way through Carolina, and even after I graduated, we danced around Columbia at places like the Web, the VFW and Amvets. Chick and I were married in 1957. We continued to dance on weekends especially at the Fort Jackson Officer's Club, but by then, the Rock & Roll frenzy had hit the country, and good places to shag were hard to come by.

The renaissance of Shag in 1979 was like the rebirth of learning. All of a sudden, people were shagging everywhere. You all know the story. Shag clubs, weekend parties, S.O.S., bus trips, contest the whole nine yards. We were back into it and thrilled to the bone.

I was a joiner and an organizer so I quickly became involved. I was president of the Columbia Shag Club, one of the founders of the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs and the Hall of Fame Foundation. As Chairman of the Board of the Association, I was responsible for taking 212 shaggers to Hawaii, and I was responsible for bringing S.O.S. to the Association. Chick and I were one of the original Host Couples of Our Time. I originated the Columbia Shag Club Newsletter, The first local club letter in the Association. I helped start shag clubs in Aiken, Orangeburg, Camden, Greenwood, South Strand, and Hilton Head. It is honor enough to be called a "shagger" but others have come my way sorta like icing on the cake including the Beach Shagger's Hall of Fame, the Wall of Fame, the Wall of Legends, and the DJ's Hall of Fame. I could go on and on about my life in the shag world, But if you want to be short and to the point, just put me down as Phil Sawyer...Shagger.



## S.O.S. in Retrospect A Brief History

Published in Carefree Times Summer 1992

# S. O. S. in Retrospect A Brief History

By Phil Sawyer

"S. O. S." "The Raven is rolling and rocking off the coast. Get in touch with Capt. Earl Bostic aboard the Flamingo and ask him to meet us at Oak Tree in Sept. (Signed) Captain Wynonne Harris . . . June 14, 1896."

The antique bottle was authentic. The message neatly printed on what appeared to be very old parchment was legible. The bottle was found and reported to several museums. The curators believed it and announced the find and the story soon made the national wire services. S. O. S. was hot national copy after a D. J. solved the riddle.

Thus, with a hoax and a hope, Gene Laughter, a former life guard and beach bum on Ocean Drive in the early fifties launched the first S. O. S. in the spring of 1980. September 1980, the magic week-end finally arrived. The migration began and never stopped. They came by the hundreds. Billy Smith's Beach Party, Fat Jack's, The Afterdeck were packed. The Oak Tree Inn sold out early. Gene expected two to three hundred former life-guards, stranders, and beach bums but about 5,000 showed up. Ocean Drive Beach hasn't been the same since; neither has anyone who was at that first, never to be duplicated, experience.

S. O. S. continued but it's future in the early days was by no means certain. The format evolved. At first there were contests and bands. Many of the clubs had a cover charge. Clubs opened and closed. They changed hands from one season to the next. What was, suddenly wasn't. The city fathers didn't quite know what to make of or what to do with it. Encourage or prevent . . . support or squash. No one quite knew what to make of it.

Gene Laughter knew. He, more than any other one person knew the people, the music, the beach, and the potential of the brand new product he had suddenly become the guardian of. But the unbridled joy of everyone who attended told him one simple thing. This is too good to be true . . . keep it going and even expand.

Thus, in September of 1981, S. O. S. II, and September 1982, S. O. S. III followed. Things were now well organized. There was a data base of members, regular publications, and organized and structured events. Membership cards replaced cover charges and entrance to the clubs. The early Boogie Boat proved unworkable. Contest and bands were eliminated. The D. J.s took over. S. O. S. began to look like what we know it is today.

Throughout the mid to late 80s, S. O. S. 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 who ever had one grain of sand in his shoes agreed the S. O. S. was great for the Grand Strand, and to miss one was unthinkable. Fat Harold's, Duck's, Crazy Zack's, Harold's Across the Street, and the Gallion became shrines to which devout

stranders made pilgrimages many times each year.

Everything was good until 1988 and 1989 when the business interest at the beach became divided. Further, the originator for personal and business reasons could not continue to run S. O. S. The dancing space became smaller as the crowds grew larger and larger. The competition became fierce, and the one thing that had kept it all going was uncertain.

In February 1989, the Association received an offer from Gene Laughter for the sale of S. O. S. The Board of Advisors discussed this offer at length at the Winter Workshop in Moresville, NC and without a dissenting vote approved the purchase of S. O. S. The discussion centered around the desire of the Association to bring unity to all elements involved and to assure that the kind of S. O. S. that we all loved so well would continue for many years to come.

Since there were scarcely six weeks until the Spring Safari, the interim board plunged into the planning and organizing for that event. The Association ran our first S. O. S. with Headquarters at Crazy Zack's. As in any first effort there were mistakes, but we learned a lot. The bottom line is we brought it off, paid the bills, and made a little money. A lot of people worked long and hard and managed to have a good time doing it.

The interim board, with minor modifications became the Board of Directors of S. O. S. and Larry Taylor of Columbia was elected Chairman. The Board then elected officers of the corporation with Phil Sawyer, President.

The new board and officers discussed the goals of S. O. S. at length, and little has changed. Unity, crowd control, high class parties, responsible use of funds, permanence, and outstanding relationships with the North Myrtle Beach municipal officials and residents were then and are still the goals. We are proud to report that we have achieved all of these objectives.

S. O. S. continues unprecedented growth. Many exciting features have been added. The uniformed security at all participating club doors, the Trams, food, and expanded Carefree Times are Association initiatives. Funds from S. O. S. support local club activities, The Association budget, the Mid Winter Beach Classic, and charities. We are committed to a contribution of \$100,000 over time to a foundation to support the national Hospice effort.

S. O. S. is now in its twelfth year. It will soon be a teen-ager. Most of us were teen-agers when we got on this train; many of us have teen-agers of our own now who we have brought through these troubled waters. We know that they can be difficult years. However, with our attention firmly focused on our established objectives and a deep commitment to "do what's right", S. O. S. will grow to a rich and rewarding old age.

*The S. O. S. Board of Directors:* Larry Taylor, Chairman, Phil Sawyer, Bob Wood, Joe McGhee, Shirley Gough, Sandy Braddock, Ken Hudspeth, Donny Way, Hector Pheifer and Speedy Lewis.

*The S. O. S. Officers:* Phil Sawyer, President, Speedy Lewis, Vice President, Ken Hudspeth, Secretary, Pat Smith, Recorder, Foster McKinney, Treasurer, and King Holmes, Council.

## Lake Hickory Shag Club

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Hickory, NC 28603-1271

Phone: 828.514.7765

Email:

We're on the WEB:

[lakehickoryshagclub.com](http://lakehickoryshagclub.com)

Also Like us on Facebook

**BOOGIE YOUR  
CARES AWAY!**

### LHSC Party Dates

<u>Dates</u>	<u>DJ</u>
8/8	John D. Smith
9/12	Chigger Woods
10/17	Frank Price
11/14	Jerry Burrage
12/5	Norman Mills

**VFW—Hickory**  
**7:30pm—11:30pm**

### Shag Lessons

**Chip & Jackie Smith**  
**REGISTER AT:**  
[www.learnhowtoshag.com](http://www.learnhowtoshag.com)

### August Lessons

**Start Wed. Aug 19th**

Beginners: 6:30pm

Style Step: 7:30pm

**VFW—Hickory**

## Spotlight Photos



## Important Dates:



**To view SOS:**  
**Google—OD Pa-**  
**vilion Webcam**

For all Shag Clubs'  
events visit:  
[www.shagtours.com](http://www.shagtours.com)

**2015**  
**July 14-19 Junior**  
**SOS**

**September**  
**September 18-27 -**  
**Fall Migration**

**2016**  
**January**  
**January - 15-17 Mid-**  
**Winter/Workshop**

**April**  
**April 15-24 Spring**  
**Safari**

**July**  
**July 8-10 Summer**  
**Workshop**

**July 12-17 Junior**  
**SOS**

**September**  
**September 16-25 - Fall**  
**Migration**

### Area Shag Events

**Shooter's Lounge**  
**Hickory, NC**  
**Tue. Nights 7-10pm**  
**Sandy Beach S.C.**  
**Morganton, NC**  
**August 1st**  
**Twister's S.C.**  
**Mooresville, NC**  
**August 7th**  
**Brushy Mtn S.C.**  
**N. Wilkesboro, NC**  
**August 8th**  
**Statesville S.C.**  
**Statesville, NC**  
**August 14th**