## LHSC\* NEWSLETTER

### **'MARCH EDITION'**

## LHSC 3/2016

Lake

Hickory

\*Best little Shag Club in the Valley!

# **BOOGIE BUSINESS**©

'This is not the news you would like to read, this is the news you need to read!'©

Lake Hickory Shag Club Providing and Preserving Shagging and the Heritage of Beach Maxie





# President's Court

Are you going to the 'BIG' dance: Sweet 16, Elite 8, Final 4, LHSC March Madness Party? This promises to be a slam dunk gathering of shaggers at the VFW. Please don't FOUL OUT & miss this one! No jumping thru hoops at our party...just some awesome music & fast dancing. For a March dance 'get in free' ticket be the third member to find a Texas city & reply back it's name & location in this issue. Another interesting & informative perspective on our dance history is featured

in this issue. Enjoy!

Jim 'Alley-oops' Mauldin President / Coach J



Coach J instilling 'TEAMWORK'!





**Bass & Kit Ball** 

Members.

What a great opportunity for you to get the kids, grandkids, or any young person under age 21 to get involved in our dance. Tickets are just \$20 (& more fun than a picture show) and look at the flyer at all they will get including FREE Shag Lessons by

'Junior Cyclone'

March 18-20

Mooresville, NC

some pro instructors and Junior Competitors. For us to keep the dance alive we need to get the juniors involved. Trust me, if those kids who have not been involved before go they will be blown away especially seeing others in their age group dance.









# **CLUB OFFICERS**

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Jim Mauldin

**BBN v. 2.1** 

Two early Junior Shaggers.... Billy Jeffers and Maggie Lunn Foss, at"OD" (Ocean Drive, N. Myrtle Beach, SC) c. 1940 LHSC 3/2016



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## "The Shag".... and Carolina Beach Music (Reprint From BJ's) History

The exact origin of the Shag aren't known, but it's generally considered a form of Southern swing dance (Or the BOP), influenced by jazz, blues and gospel music. The dances popularity soared on the coast of the Carolinas in the 1940s and 50s, especially along the Grand Strand. The shag had its origins in black nightclubs and was done to R&B music. Young white dancers crossed racial boundaries by going to the clubs to watch dancing. They took the dance to the old Myrtle Beach Pavilion and the old Pad at Ocean Drive, now part of North Myrtle Beach. Since 1984, it has been South Carolina's official state dance. North Carolina adopted shagging as a state dance in 2005.

The Carolina shag is a swing dance that shares many moves with jitterbug, east coast swing, and west coast swing, and not to forget the good old Bop -- not to be confused with Surf Music. The 60s riffs of the Rip Chords, the Ventures, and Jan & Dean were perfect for twisting in the sand, but far removed from shag dancing. Slower than the West Coast Swing, this dance didn't bounce or hop, it's glided, and was best enjoyed barefoot in the sand.

Some historians say the term Shag was coined at Carolina Beach, NC, but that's debatable since Duck-Tailed guys and pretty girls danced to Beach music in 4/4 time from Virginia Beach to Savannah, Georgia.

A small coterie of fans, however, claim Carolina Beach as its birthplace. At least some documentary evidence can be found to support this. Broadcaster " 'Fessa" John Hook, in his 2005 book "Shagging in the Carolinas," reproduces clippings from the Morning Star and other Wilmington newspapers, dated as early as 1932, describing "shag dance" contests. A large "shag" contest ended the 1935 season at Wrightsville Beach's Lumina Pavilion. "Many requests have been made for a night featuring 'shag' music," another 1935 clipping noted.

Lewis Philip Hall in his book "Land of the Golden River," claimed to have introduced the shag at the second "Feast of the Pirates" festival in August 1928 in Wilmington. Hall had something of a reputation of not letting details stand in the way of a good story, but singer Kay Keever recalled doing the dance with Hall in 1930: "He invented the Shag, you know." "Everyone down at the beach learned the Shag," recalled artist Claude Howell. "We'd go to someone's porch at the beach, and someone would show the rest of us.



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Then on to the Lumina and invent some more (steps)." Hall claimed that his shag morphed from a combination of the Charleston and the varsity rag. (A dance called the Collegiate Shag circulated for a while in the 1930s.) Whether his shag was the same as the shag we know now is unclear. By the summer of 1937, however, Shep Fields and his orchestra had recorded "The Shag - Fox Trot" for Bluebird Records and by August 1937, "The Shag" had reached the No. 18 position on Billboard magazine's radio chart. Benny Goodman released sheet music for his version of the shag ("The New Dance Craze?) in 1939.

One of the acknowledged masters of shag dancing was Malcolm Ray "Chicken" Hicks (1925-2004), a Durham native who relocated to Carolina Beach in 1943. Hicks, along with his brother Bobby and a number of other young locals, was sneaking over to Seabreeze, the nearby black beach resort, to check out the latest music and steps in the "jump joints" there. By 1946, he was convincing Carolina Beach bar owners to slip black musicians' records on their jukeboxes, and at Carolina Beach clubs like the Sugar Bowl, he was demonstrating new steps for what he called the "jump." Witnesses say people were shag dancing at the Ocean Plaza ballroom at Carolina Beach by the summer of 1948. Soon afterward, however, after a series of bar fights and a couple of well-publicized homicides, police cracked down on "jitterbug bums" and saw that most of Carolina Beach's "jump joints," including the Sugar Bowl, closed. By 1950, the shag had shifted almost entirely to the Myrtle Beach, S.C., area.



- pended for now. Will let you know of any future updates.
- April Party theme is 'Tea Party'. Come get your tax refunds checks.

