

# Lake Lure Shag Rag

Newsletter for the Lake Lure Shag Club, Inc.

Volume 1, Issue 3

March 2010

## Our Mission Statement

The purpose of the Lake Lure Shag Club is to preserve, encourage and promote shag dancing and to strive to perpetuate the dance, music and culture that make up the shag.

### 2008 Officers

President / Dorothy Jarrett

Home: 828-625-1699

Cell: 828-289-0710

E-mail: dotjarrett@bellsouth.net

Vice - President / Rocky Phillips

Cell: (704) 737-7733

Secretary / Treasurer

Sandra Rhodes

Cell: (828) 429-5216

E-mail: rhodessandra@att.net

### Board Members

Mike Saunders

Cell: (828) 289-8333

E-mail: msanders@isothermal.edu

Mike Sechrist

Cell: (828) 289-6296

Tracy Green

Cell: (828) 980-5700

E-mail: tracygreen@bellsouth.net

David Efind

Home: (828) 625-1154

Cell: (828) 231-5502

E-mail: turtle309@bellsouth.net

## Time for SOS "Spring Safari"

By: Dot Jarrett

Our March dance was held on th 20th at the 1927 Lake Lure Inn & Spa. Our DJ this month was J. Worthington Smith, our own "Oldie But Goodie". J. W. has been spinning the tunes for a lot of local dancers for many, many years and we wanted to welcome him back to visit with some old friends and make some new ones.

We had the pleasure again of hosting several members from other shag clubs in the area and I would like to thank everyone for attending. We also had many visitors to the area who had never seen shag dancing before and it is always great to share the experience. Many thanks to all, especially the members of the R & B Shag Club of Spartanburg, the Mountain Shag Club of Asheville, the Upstate Shag Club of Spartanburg and the Rutherford County Shag Club.

After being without a website for more than six months, I am very happy to let you know that we are back on the internet. When you have a few moments, please take the time to look at our new website at [www.lakelureshagclubinc.com](http://www.lakelureshagclubinc.com). You will find some great information there that will help those of you who are new to shagging. Explore the links and get to know the music, the dance, and the people who continue to support the phenomenon of shag. Shag is a true sothern tradition and the state dance of both North Carolina and South Carolina.

At this time of year, you will find that most shaggers are planning their annual adventures to North Myrtle Beach, S. C. to take part in SOS "Spring Safari". As you browse our new website, go to the "Favorite Shag Links" page and click on the link for the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs. If you are new to shagging, you can learn more about the events that take place from April 17-26 at the beach. The SOS parade will take place on Saturday, April 25 on Main Street.

I hope to see you all again on April 10th for our Pre-SOS party. Eddie Teeter will be our DJ, so please come out and support him. For those of you who are going to the beach, please drive safely, have lots of fun and dance like nobody is watching!



Thanks again to Mountain 1st Bank & Trust of Lake Lure, N. C. for being the proud sponsor of of the Roosevelt Hall and for furnishing the hors d'oeuvre table for our March dance. The local office is managed by Edith Bond and is conveniently located at 2564 Memorial Highway in Lake Lure next to Subway.

They offer extended banking hours Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a. m. until 5:30 p. m. and on Fridays from 8:30 a. m. until 6:00 p. m. To experience the unique personal service of Mountain 1st Bank & Trust, give Edith a call today at 828-625-0204.



Tom Armstrong, President of the R & B Shag Club and wife, LaRhea.

### Lake Lure Shag Club Applies for Membership in ACSC

By: Sandra Rhodes

The Lake Lure Shag Club made a formal application to the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs (ACSC) in February to become a member. Part of the process involves the visitation of another area shag club who is already a member in the organization for observation and followup to the ACSC for a formal vote by all other member clubs.

On March 20, several members of the R & B Shag Club of Spartanburg, S. C. visited the LLSC to complete their report to the ACSC. On April 25, 2009 all member clubs of the ACSC will be asked to vote at the SOS Spring Safari association meeting at N. Myrtle Beach, S. C. for our acceptance into the associaton. For more information about the ACSC, please visit [www.shagdance.com](http://www.shagdance.com).



### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Judie Walters  
March 2

Kay Burnette  
March 19

Bill Scherpereel  
March 28

### North Carolina State Shag Tag License Plate

The great State of North Carolina was the first to make it official a couple of years ago. Just wanted to make you aware again that the Shag is North Carolina's "Most Popular Dance". State Senators Tony Rand and David Hoyle introduced the bill.



The tags are only \$15.00 for a numbered tag or if you want it personalized it will be \$45.00 extra. You get four spaces to be creative and say what you want to say on the personalized tag. You may order your plate through your local DMV office. So, don't wait, order now so you can tell everyone "I'd Rather Be Shaggin'!"

The shag is the state dance of South Carolina. Legislation has been introduced and state shag tags have also been designed for both South Carolina and Virginia. To date, this legislation has not been passed and North Carolina remains the only state with a state shag tag.

By J. Worthington Smith

I was born and raised in Rutherfordton, North Carolina where I currently live. As a teenager in the early '60's, I played in two local bands, and on several occasions played at the El Tango in Lake Lure.

I have enjoyed a very interesting career as a radio and music disc jockey for a period of more than 35 years. During many of those years, I also lived and worked in South Carolina and Tennessee.

One of the most enriching experiences of my career was during the time I attended school in Nashville. In 1964, I worked as an apprentice with John Richburg at WLAC. A lot of you probably grew up hearing "this is John R., way down south in Dixie". John Richburg and Gene Nobles were considered the pioneers of Rhythm and Blues Radio in the 1940's and 1950's.

I first worked for WISE Radio in Asheville, N. C. from the mid to late 1960's. Ronnie Milsap, who was originally from Robbinsville, N. C., used to visit and sit with me in the control room.

Ronnie was friends with one of the other DJ's, Danny Dyer, who was also blind. At that time, Ronnie was playing at the Casa Loma Club in Asheville and at the



J. Worthington Smith

El Tango in Lake Lure. We used to promote Ronnie as the man who sounded like Ray Charles. We would talk about what he would do when he hit it big and became famous.

I had the opportunity to interview several of the same performers at the Casa Loma in Asheville who also appeared here in Lake Lure at the El Tango. I did interviews with Jerry Lee Lewis, Gene Chandler, Major Lance, the Spontaines, Clifford Curry, the Dixie Cups, the Shirelles, Solomon Burke, Junior Walker and the All Stars, The Tams, Maurice Williams and the Zodiacs and others.

Another popular place to see these performers was at The Pines Club in Hendersonville. At that time, recording artists made more money from personal appearances than they did from record sales. I have enjoyed some great times over the years and this is bringing back so many wonderful memories.

While in Asheville, I also worked for WLOS Channel 13 TV and Radio. After leaving Asheville, I

lived in Greenville from the late 60's to early 70's. I deejayed at WESC, a country radio station and WQOK, the rock music station in Greenville.

Another fun experience I had occurred while working at WQOK in Greenville. Jack Smith (more famously known as "Wolfman Jack") came over to the station for an interview and we ended up doing a two hour radio show together. I still have a copy of those tapes. I remember doing a fund raiser or something at the time for Moses Dillard and Dee Clark who sang the song "Raindrops" which ranked number two on the charts in 1961. (Wolfman Jack also deejayed at WLAC in Nashville, TN).

(continued on page 4)



**Wolfman Jack - Robert Weston Smith** (January 21, 1938 – July 1, 1995) was a gravelly-voiced, American disc jockey who became world famous in the 1960's and 1970's under the stage name of **Wolfman Jack**. Originally from Brooklyn, N. Y., he was living in Belvidere, N. C. at the time of his death in 1995.

I later lived in Knoxville for over six years and worked for WNOX, the oldest radio station in Tennessee and the third oldest radio station in the U. S. After I left there, I went back to WQOK Radio in Greenville and also worked at WORD Radio in Spartanburg.

I later worked at WBCY FM with John Boy and Billy in Charlotte, N. C. John Hook also worked there on the AM network. I then went to WXIK in Shelby where I stayed for over twelve years. My co-host on my oldies but goodies radio show at WXIK in Shelby was Stan Hardin. Stan played the guitar on the original recording of "Stay" with Maurice Williams and the Zodiacs. Stan and Maurice remained very good friends until Stan's death about three years ago.

WXIK later moved from Shelby to Charlotte in 1988 and became Magic 96 Radio (96.1) and I worked with them for two years playing the oldies but goodies on afternoon drive.

I then returned to Spartanburg, S. C. and worked for WSPA "Light Rock" 98.9 in the early '90's and also deejayed at Thirty Something. A lot of you shaggers are more familiar with Billy Waldrep, who also used to deejay there.

In the mid '90's, I operated J. W.'s Barbecue and Brew (formerly



J. Worthington Smith

the old Tomahawk Club) in Lake Lure, N. C. That building has been demolished, but it was located just across the highway from Thelma's Mountain Store.

For those of you who live in the Lake Lure area, you will hopefully remember me from the Hearthside Lounge at the Lake Lure Golf and Beach Resort, which is now Rumbling Bald Resort. I first deejayed there in 1977, and later became a regular DJ every Friday and Saturday nights at the Lakeview from 1981 until 2006. I got to know so many of the local residents and tourists there and they became like family to me.

It always made me feel good when the tourists told me that they returned year after year just to see me. A lot of them also looked forward to coming to Lake Lure to visit with the local residents they had become friends with over the years.

They would always come to the lounge hoping to see familiar faces from previous visits. It wasn't about the music and the drinking, but about

the old friendships and the special memories, just the way it was at the El Tango. That continues today at SOS at N. Myrtle Beach, S. C. for all the shaggers.

On Friday and Saturday nights, the best place to be in Lake Lure was the Hearthside Lounge. In 2006, the resort discontinued the use of a DJ at the Lakeview. I miss seeing the wonderful people I had known for so many years. It was really great to be able to see some of you again on March 20 at the Lake Lure Inn.

I work full time for the Rutherford County School system. In my spare time, I enjoy restoring antique cars. I own 14 older cars, and I am currently in the process of restoring a 1956 Crown Victoria. A couple of my favorites are a 1962 Thunderbird convertible, and a 1964 Thunderbird convertible. I also spend a lot of time attending car shows.

I accept bookings for weddings, reunions, various special interest groups and others. I have sophisticated sound systems which work well for very large functions, but will consider all opportunities. You may contact me at:

**J. W. Smith Entertainment**

**(828) 286-8024**

or

**(828) 980-5084**

Dancing is one of the few social activities in which you might find yourself intimately close with a complete stranger! Dance etiquette is nothing more than polite consideration of your dance partner and others around you as well as a concern for the safety of everyone involved.

Good dance etiquette helps to avoid accidentally offending or harming other dancers or people around you. When in doubt, just remember the golden rule, and treat others as you would like to be treated and be kind, generous, courteous and considerate of others.

After searching the web and borrowing from some other slug club websites, here is a summary of good social dancing and dance floor etiquette. Thanks to all of them for sharing!

**1. Show your appreciation.** If dancing to a live band, applaud the band. If dancing to music played by a DJ, tell the DJ how much you appreciate him/her and they don't mind applause when its appropriate either. Also, don't forget to tip your waitresses and bartenders, show your appreciation and be kind!

**2. Line of dance.** Shag and swing are considered stationary dances. Two-stepping and ballroom dances like the waltz or foxtrot are traveling dances. These traveling dances should move on the floor in a counter clock-wise direction.

This is called line of dance. Sometimes, while dancing to the same song, some couples will dance a traveling dance while others may dance a stationary dance. In this case, the traveling dancers should travel along the outside of the dance floor while stationary dancers should dance nearer to the center.

**3. The dance floor is for dancing.** If you're having a conversation or learning something new, move off the dance floor. Dance space is premium, so if you're not dancing, please stay off the dance floor.



Left to Right - Regina Lall, Jerry Mullis, & Sam Lall.

**4. The dance floor should be treated with care.** Beverages, food, lit cigarettes, and chewing gum should never be brought on the dance floor.

**5. Asking for a dance.** It is equally permissible for a woman to ask a man to dance as it is for a man to ask a woman. Take your partner's hand onto the dance floor and at the end of the dance, thank your dance partner.

Typically, it's good etiquette to accept an invitation to dance, but if you don't want to dance, say so politely by saying, "No, thank you." If someone turns you down, accept it graciously and ask someone else to dance.

It's considered bad social etiquette to refuse a dance on the basis of preferring to dance with someone else. In addition, declining a dance means sitting out the whole song. It is inconsiderate to dance a song with anyone after you have declined to dance it with someone else. The choices are to dance with whoever asked first, or to sit out the dance.

**6. Keep your opinions to yourself.** It is not polite to correct your partner on the dance floor. Remember, this is social dancing! If someone else does ask for help or instruction, kindly take them off to the side away from the other dancers.

**7. Dance class instructors should do the teaching.** If you are in a dance class, let the instructor teach. The instructor will ask for your help if needed.

**8. Use selective floor placement.** Establish your slot and continue to dance in it. Usually the first couple on the dance floor will establish the slot.

**9. Dance small.** Don't dance all over the floor as nobody likes to be pushed around the floor. Also, save the arm waving, long and wide foot steps, and wild leg movements for elsewhere. Aerials, drops and slides are best left for jam sessions, competitions, and performances. These type patterns are not appropriate for the social dance floor.

**10. Leaders are responsible** for looking out for the safety of their partners since they are directing their movements. Keep them out of danger and be aware of the dancers around you.

**11. Leaders, make your partner comfortable.** If you are dancing with a less experienced dancer, dance to their skill level. Work as a team, don't showboat.

**12. Leaders, keep it quiet.** If you must count and give verbal leads, keep it low enough that just you and your partner can hear. It can confuse those around you.

**13. Pay attention to the beat of the music.** Just because you can count doesn't mean you're on beat.

**14. Be aware of the dancers around you.** Bumping into other dancers is inevitable. If you bump into someone, kick someone, step on someone's foot, or if they bump into you, always apologize whether it was your fault or theirs. (Even a short non-verbal gesture will do in some situations.) Show concern that no serious injury occurred.

**15. Take care of your personal hygiene.** For your partner's sake, avoid eating garlic, onions, or spicy foods, and always brush your teeth and shower before going out dancing. If you perspire a lot, pace your dancing, or bring extra shirts, blouses, etc. and change sweaty clothing. Sometimes mints and deodorants will be the right choice! Thanks and see you on the dance floor!

## For Beach and Shag Music, Tune Into:

Tessa John Hook at [www.beachshag.com](http://www.beachshag.com) for great music and news of the shag world

Beach Bob with Kathy Cole at 103.3 from 2:00-6:00 pm or [www.beachboboldies.com](http://www.beachboboldies.com)

Check out [www.grandstrandradionetwork.com](http://www.grandstrandradionetwork.com) and you can get 94.9, The Surf at [www.949thesurf.com](http://www.949thesurf.com)

Carolina Shag Dance Show (Mike McDaniel) on Mondays from 9-11 pm at 88.3 FM or [www.wgwg.org](http://www.wgwg.org)

On Fridays and Saturdays go to 91.7 FM or [www.wage.org](http://www.wage.org) to hear a variety of popular shag DJ's.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

SOS SPRING SAFARI

APRIL 17 - 26, 2009

N. MYRTLE BEACH, SC

ANNUAL SOS SPRING PARADE

Saturday, April 25

PLEASE VISIT [www.shagdance.com](http://www.shagdance.com)

for more information.



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[www.lakelureshagclubinc.com](http://www.lakelureshagclubinc.com)

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The Lake Lure Shag Rag

is being widely distributed throughout the Carolinas and to all areas of the East Coast to 100+ organized shag clubs and their supporters via hard copy and e-mail. If you would like to advertise in this newsletter for a minimal monthly fee, please contact us. Thanks.

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