





August

Newsletter

2025



Happy August to all – wow summer is flying by and the heat is almost unbearable. The kids will be back in school soon and back to a regular schedule.

Our July party, was a fun time for all and a pretty good crowd. Our Social Committee did their usual outstanding job on the decorations, very patriotic with all of the red, white, and blue and I thank them for all their hard work.

And a big thank you to our floor committee for putting down and taking up the dance floor to keep it safe. Our DJ, Mark Swygert, played lots of great tunes and kept the floor full of dancers. It was his first time playing for Rock Hill and I think he will be back. We had a great crowd and some visitors. Thanks to the club members that make sure the visitors feel welcomed at our club.

Remember our Friday night Meet and Greets, always a great time and a chance to get out to socialize and dance. Our first one will be on August 1st which will also be our Junior night and our DJ for the night will be Phil Long. Our other Friday night M&Gs will be on August 8th with Jesse Gavigan DJing and then on August 22nd with Ron Blaney as our DJ, just a laid back and fun night.

Looking forward to our August party, we ask you all to wear one of your favorite Rock Hill T-Shirts. The party will be August 16th, with doors open at 6:30. Our DJ for the night will be Tommy Samole. Come out and join in all the fun, you know that the Rock Hill Shag Club is known as the party animals. Also remember this is when we are

drawing for the winner of the liquor wagon so make sure you have turned in all of the tickets you have sold to Penny Blaney as soon as possible.

Continue enjoying this hot Summer and make sure your travels are safe. If in town join us on Friday nights for M&G and/or our Monthly party and let's dance,

Debra Ledford, President



"NEWS!" FROM YOUR VP

Debbie Brown 803-242-6104 shagdeb@gmail.com

I am sorry that I had to miss our July party. I heard there was a great turnout and some fantastic music. I was at JR SOS for the week. I hope that you will take the time to read that article; Learn what JR SOS is all about and maybe next year, come on down, bring the kids, and volunteer to be a part of a fabulous event. Also, just a big **REMINDER: THE MEMBERS ONLY PARTY HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 6. SEE NEW FLYER. HOPE YOU CAN MAKE IT.**



To date, we have sold (63) SOS Cards. That leaves us with only (37). If you plan to go to Fall SOS, please see me to get your cards before they are gone.

NEXT UP ON THE CALENDAR IS FUN MONDAY TICKETS. The sale of these tickets



provides the bands for FUN MONDAY during FALL SOS. An interesting note, all the proceeds after expenses go to several charitable organizations that the SOS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION helps to support: Caring 4 Kids, Junior Shag Association, Ellen Taylor Foundation, First Responders, and Tunnels To Tower Foundation. Please read the separate article by John Carpenter that explains how it works.

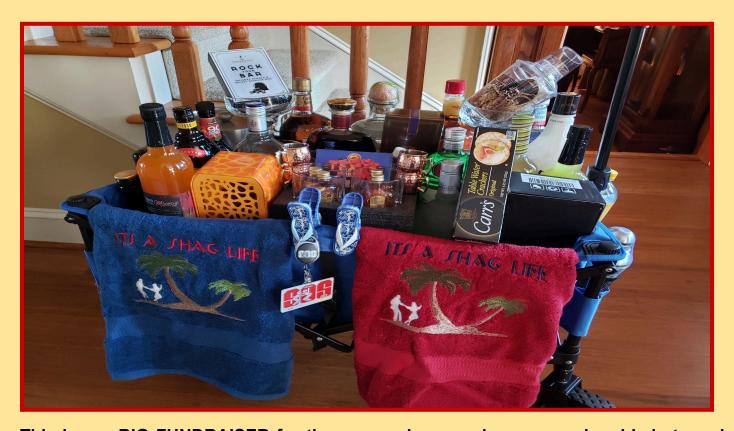
All tickets are \$10 each. If you buy or sell (20), you will get a Free Orange Ticket. All tickets must be sold and mailed in by August 25. Also note, that if you sell the winning first place ticket, you will receive \$100 and the person who sells the most tickets will receive \$100. We are responsible for selling (100) tickets. I hope you will all participate and help sell these tickets. Let's not

wait till the deadline. Let's jump on them. The club will purchase the first (10) to get the ball rolling and Dennis & I will take the next (10) to sell to others or purchase ourselves. I have sold a few and Steve Williams took (20) to sell. We are about half way there. Here are the winning prizes: 1st Place: \$5,000; 2nd Place: \$1,000; 3rd Place: \$500; 4th Place:

\$250; 5th Place: \$250

The drawing will be held in an open forum on Main Street, North Myrtle Beach, on Monday, September 15, 2025 during **FUN MONDAY**. You do not have to be present to win. Check out the attached flyers to see the bands performing. Also, note – **FUN SUNDAY** is back this year with JIM QUICK & COASTLINE taking the stage.

CLUB FUNDRAISER



This is our BIG FUNDRAISER for the year and we need every members' help to make this a success. This year we will be raffling off (3) items – A WINE BASKET, A BEACH BOGG BAG, AND THE LARGE LIQUOR WAGON. There are still (400) tickets that have not been signed out to sell. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU SELL TICKETS TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY OUTSIDE THE SHAG CLUB AS WE ARE ASKING EACH MEMBER TO TAKE AT LEAST (20) TICKETS TO SELL. I know everyone has at least (4) friends that would be happy to buy tickets. (5 for \$20) If you have not already gotten lickets to sell and/or purchased your own, please see Penny or Ron today. The drawing will be held at our August 16th Party. Also, if you signed up to bring items to fill the baskets and wagon, please get those items to Penny & Ron Blaney ASAP. The deadline to turn everything in – all items and all tickets and money – is Friday, August 8. This is such an easy way to raise funds for our club and help us to be able to do all the fun stuff throughout the year. As always, a great big "Thank You" for your support. You are a great group, and you are what makes our club the best! Please reach out to Penny at 803-984-2578 or pmblaney@yahoo.com

KEN AKIN, SOS/ACSC

BY: IronMike Townsend

July 1965 South China Sea. Throughout the night USS Ticonderoga launch and recovery operations bristled to accomplish her mission: find and destroy NVA PT boats sneaking south to attack US and Vietnamese ships. Runway lights illuminated steam rising from deck ops as the North reading the A.1. Sharp interest to the A.1. Sharp interest the A.1. Sharp interest

Lieutenant Chuck Norris readied his A-1 Sky Raider for catapult into the dark. With his meticulous final inspection complete, Petty Officer Kenneth Akin gave the "clear to launch" thumbs up.

September 1966 Aiken, SC. His US Navy obligation completed, Ken Akin returned home, began a clothing store career that now spans 60-years, and married high school sweetheart Janice. Continuing his clothing career part-time, he eventually retired from Savannah River Westinghouse operations. In those same years, as if a family and two time-demanding jobs weren't enough, athletically gifted Ken Akin became an accomplished bicyclist, marathon runner, and triathlete. Still with unspent energy, good friend Johnny Turner introduced Ken and Janice to Shag dance in 1984. By 1990 Ken was CSRA club president and held ACSC and SOS board positions since then. Along the way Ken and Janice served on just about every CSRA committee; Ken as VP, President, and Chairman, three years each, then CSRA Shag Classic Chairman three years. For 23 years they were ACSC workshop principals. From 2010-2014 Ken was ACSC Vice Chair, Chairman 2014-18, and Past-Chair since. In 2014 he was named an ACSC ICON. In 2015 Janice and Ken were entered in the NBHOF. They are founding members of SOS Charitable Foundation and Ellen Taylor Jr Shaggers Foundation. And they've traveled hundreds of miles visiting dozens of clubs promoting ACSC, and SOS. They're near perfect SOS & ACSC attendees.

Question: What makes the dance we do special? Why do you still migrate to NMB twice each year? "At our 1st SOS in 1986 there was thrill in every direction, everybody was happy and excited. Being from a small town, the atmosphere was unique. There were thousands of joy-filled, very friendly people we didn't know, yet they all seemed anxious to make new friends. As much fun as our local club had been - this simply, was so much more. We loved it and wanted more. Question: You've lived an amazingly full active life, why take on so much even today? "It's true, you aren't working if you're doing what you want to do. The truth is I very much enjoy staying busy and only do things I want to do anymore."

Antidote #1: From a life dominated by marathons and Ironman triathlon competition, in the gym I became "IronMike." As the talk soaked in, a trace of self-assured snobbery occasionally slipped out. At SOS nearly 40 years ago, while on a 15-mile run, I was briefly joined by a fellow who claimed also to be a biker. Okay I said, "Meet me tomorrow morning" then had a dumb thought: "I'll show him who the boss is!" Surprised the next morning at his expensive looking almost as pretty as my custom made, wind-tunnel tested, mega \$ triathlon aero bike, did I mention overtaken by dumb? We turned back towards NMN About 20 miles out. Each time I picked up the pace he stayed right with me. Then, three times on the way back he passed me! This dude passed IronMike! On his 3rd pass I meekly said, "I need to save something for a run after this." As if he didn't hear me, or maybe he was just returning my pre-ride smug assessment, he hammered harder in the lead as I grasped for air! It is no fun telling about getting your butt kicked so I'll just report we rode 40 miles that day. At each SOS over the next 30-some years, we've met for 2-hour rides. Since learning he is three years my senior, I've thought more of myself as TinMike. You see, Ken Akin is one tuff dude. One of these days I'll ask: "Why didn't you tell me you were training to ride a bicycle from California to Georgia, before you kicked my Antidote #2: At the 2018 South Carolina Senior Games, competing in the over 75-age group, Ken won a Silver, two Gold Medals, and placed 4th in all-age-groups competition. Antidote #3: One fine evening three years ago there was an urgent message on my phone. "Ken crashed. He's in the hospital." I called back and was told his injuries were a broken collar bone, punctured lung, six broken ribs, lost blood and some serious road-rash. The genuinely concerned lady was startled when I said, "If that's all he'll be fine in a few days." Prompted by her stunned silence, I said, "Look, of all the people I know that I might worry about, Ken is not one of them. He is the strongest, most resilient man I know. Believe me, he has proven that many times." Did I mention Ken Akin is a tuff dude? Antidote #4: 9/23/2024 (day after fall SOS) I called my 82-year-old biking buddy to make sure he got home okay, to thank him for his time with me and friendship. Already back at his Lionel Smith clothing store job, my call interrupted his interaction with a customer. After we spoke, it came to me that this Ken Akin dude must have been the original inspiration for the Energizer Bunny commercial. And a prince of a man too.



August 2025

Hello Shag Friends and Family

The Rock Hill "Independence Day Celebration" was a big success with DJ Mark Swygert spinning out lots of fire cracking songs to dance to. Another great turn out with members and guest honoring our independence by wearing "red, white and blue" attire. Thanks to Amy, Becky, Judith, Libby and Savannah for doing a wonderful job decorating.

Aug 16th is our next Saturday night party featuring DJ Tommy Samole. The August heat is referred to as "dog days of summer" because it's the hottest and most sultry time of summer. Therefore, our theme will be to wear your most favorite Rock Hill Shag Club T- SHIRT to keep us all a little bit cooler. Can't wait to see all the different shirts that others have collected since being in our amazing club.

Another fun time to mark your calendar is Saturday Sept 6 @ 4 PM. THIS IS FOR MEMBERS ONLY. Members only POOL PARTY will be at one of my favorites – the fabulous D & D Resort (Debbie & Dennis Brown). If you have never been, you need to join the fun. Burgers & Hot Dogs with all the trimmings will be served. Special Drink, Shooters, Water, Sodas and Beer provided. Make sure to bring a chair to relax in. Freddy Tripp will be our special guest at the party.

I want to thank the members and guests who brought in school supplies for the Back-to-School Drive. As always you came through with a load of items for children and teachers in our area which helps make a huge difference to a lot of families. The Elk's Lodge was very appreciative and asked I thank our club for their generosity

Another reminder, we are still needing assistance with setting up and closing our Aug 16 and Nov 15 Saturday night parties. Please let me know if you can help.

Keep smiling and see you on the dance floor.

Sandy Long

Social Director



JR SOS 2025, the largest junior event of the year, has come and gone

once again, leaving tons of fun for the memory books. It all started July 15th with the "early birds" arriving Sunday and dancing the night away at the OD Pavilion with a Junior DJ and a class for the Basic Step. Can we say "HOT!" Monday brought in more arrivals and the kids headed over to the Assisted Living





Home to dance and talk with the residents. They always love watching the kids dance. Monday night everyone headed to Fat Harold's Back Room for the PIZZA PARTY sponsored by Karyn Allen, Tiffany Allen, & Zoey Cathcart. The floor was packed and we had not even "officially" started.

By Tuesday, we are in full swing. As everyone registers and checks in, they are given a T-Shirt, a cup, and a SC state pin. We had pulled T-shirts in advance for all those who registered in advance, which made things go smoother.





The T-Shirt this year was designed by Lizzie Batten, one of our former juniors. Lizzie is a graduate of USC. She did all the marketing & social media for JSA this year on a volunteer basis. She also designed logos, banners, and signage. Great job Lizzie, as always.



The Ellen Taylor Foundation sets up a Shoe Room where all the kids are allowed to come in and shop for shoes. They can get (2) pairs. This is made possible by all of you donating shoes throughout the year. It is so special to see the kids of all ages get their very first pair of "shag shoes".

Over this week, they started the week with 649 pairs of shoes and handed out 199 pairs to the kids. Towards the end of the week, adults are allowed to



come in and purchase a pair of shoes. They sold around 60 pairs to adults. The proceeds from the sale goes into the Ellen Taylor Foundation. Thank you Betty & Sandy and the entire foundation for all your hard work.

Workshops started up on Tuesday night and continued every morning with (4) different



classes starting at 9:30 for three different age groups. The youngest group was ages 3-5 years. They only had one class a day for 30 minutes. They are so cute. Then you had Beginner Classes for ages 6-10 and 11 & up. Then an Intermediate & Advanced Class. All classes are taught by Pro Dancers & Keepers of the Dance.











Tuesday night, we had a "live" band, Jim Quick & Coastline, to play for the kids at Ducks. The kids absolutely loved it. The dance floor was full.



Wednesday afternoon brought the LINE DANCE CHALLENGE. They were divided into (6) groups and had to draw a song and had 30 minutes to make up a line dance. The winners were: 1st Place: The "No Names". I love watching the kids come together as one to create these new dances. It was a blast. Wednesday night brought the LINE DANCE CLASS where everyone learned the "Boots on the

Ground" This was a tons of fun and they enjoyed dancing it at night. The new JR SOS 25 step this year was taught by Sam & Lisa West. It was easy enough for everyone to catch on.

Wednesday night also brought back a favorite – THE GLOW PARTY. We provide glow sticks, hats, glasses, etc. for all the kids. So much fun for everyone.





Wednesday night also brought back the "Shag Showdown". This is a competition where you sign up and the computer does a random match for partners. This year's winners were Elana Lassiter & Idris Bah. He is such a great little dancer and Elana was just the icing on the cake. This little girl shown with Keith, the host of the contest, demanded her floor time to dance.





New event this year, was the "Beach Shagger National Hall of Fame" Jeopardy. The kids were divided up into groups and competed as teams. It was a lot of fun and a

great learning experience for all the kids. I learned a few

things myself. The winning team was the "Ankle Crushers". At the end of the game, all the Hall of Fame Members and Keepers of the Dance got in a circle. All the juniors circle around them and got to dance with each one. What a special honor for all the kids to participate in.



Thursday, Friday, & Saturday nights we held contests: Jack & Jill for Beginners, Intermediates, & Advanced; Pro-Am; Handicap Mixed Doubles; and Keepers Mixed Doubles. There were prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in each contest. We had a lot of participation. This gave them a little taste of what competing is all about and that anyone can compete. All of our RH juniors competed and did some awesome dancing.

Friday night brought spotlight dances from the champions of the National Shag Dance Championships and the Grand Nationals Dance Competitions. We had (3) teams do an exhibition dance this year: The Junior Shag Dance Team, Jukin' Juniors, and the Jacksonville Junior Shag Team. It is always fun and awesome to watch these young people dance. They are all dedicated and work very hard to put their routines on the floor. GREAT JOB!



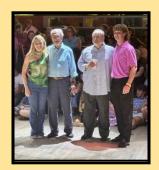
Saturday afternoon, everyone put on their 2025 Junior SOS t-shirts and headed to the beach for a group photo. Thank you Carlton Vinson for all the great photos this week. Afterwards, we were back at the OD Pavilion for a Hot Dog Lunch sponsored once again by Don, Debbie, Kayla, and Trey Henley.

Ice Cream was sponsored by John & Tina Phillips, Lee & Marsha Rose, and Hampton & Judy Cobb. Thank you guys. It was terrific. Then everyone headed to the beach for more fun.





Once again, on Saturday night, we had the "Ageing Out Dance" for all the juniors that will be turning (21) before the next JR SOS. We had (5) to age out this year: Gracie Pandure, Gracie Payne, Colby Taylor, Liam McLaughlin, and Elijah Jones. It is beautiful to watch these young people come to the floor and dance with someone that is "special" in their lives – parents, grandparents, siblings. We look forward to seeing them move on and start the next phase of their lives. Hopefully, they will join our shag clubs and keep our dance going.



Scholarships were given out on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night. Who would have ever thought that "shaggin" would help our kids to go to college and advance their future!

THE SHAD ALBERTY SCHOLARSHIP awarded (2) \$2,500 scholarships to Ava Farlow and Billy West. They were asked to write an essay for an interview with a Hall of Fame member. Ava chose Norfleet Jones and Billy chose Milton Nowell. They were fantastic.



THE JLEE FOUNDATIONS award (3) \$2,000 scholarships to Bethany Forrest, Zane Morgan, and Billy West. They also awarded a Four Year Merit Scholarship to Abigail Hodges. This is amazing and such an honor.





THE JUNIOR SHAG ASSOCIATION awarded (3) \$1,750 scholarships to Gracie Pandure, Ava Farlow, and Billy West. It was hard to sit through the reading of their essays without crying. They were truly heartfelt. I know all of these juniors and am so very proud of each one of them. Congratulations to all.



The final award of the week was the MACKENZIE SLEEPER SPIRIT AWARD. This year's recipient was Abigail Hodges. Abigail is from Jacksonville Florida. She is so deserving of this award. She is a little quiet, but such a hard worker. She is so kind and always trying to help other shaggers learn our dance. She is truly an inspiration. She has a great positive attitude. She is a member of the Junior Shag Dance Team, a JR SOS Ambassador, and she even formed a new junior shag team in Jacksonville. Congratulation, Abigial – well deserved.

This was truly a fantastic week. There were (909) people registered with (279) of those being kids. I heard so many comments about how well behaved, well mannered, and courteous the kids are. I think that says great things about our "shag community". Thank you, parents and the shag community, for your support.

We also have assistance from a group called "Ambassadors". This year we had (19) Ambassadors and one of the best groups to ever serve. They run in age from 15 -20. They are responsible for assisting with workshops, registration, snacks, etc. They do an awesome job and this prepares them to run this event in the future.



In closing, I must say a huge "thank you" to the Junior Shag Association Board of which I am very proud to have been a part of for seven years: Garrett Humphries - President and our leader, Larry Edwards, Jennifer Batten, LeAnn Norris, Amanda Rusmisell, Scott Cunningham, Cody Ewards, and myself. You are the best, as well as their spouses. These (9) people along

with many volunteers make this event happen.

Go ahead and mark your calendars for JR SOS 2025: July 14 - 16. You don't want to miss the fun. Till next year, juniors keep shagging. Debbie

CLUB DJ PLAY DATES 2025 AUGUST

DEAN BAKER: NONE

FRANK PRICE: August 10 – SUNDAY SHAG – CAMBRIA FORT MILL

JESSE GAVIGAN: August 8 – RHSC M&G

PHIL LONG: August 1 – RHSC M&G

RON BLANEY: August 2 – LWSC MONTHLY PARTY

August 5 – LWSC TUESDAY SHAG

August 22 – RHSC M&G

August 24 - SUNDAY SHAG - CAMBRIA FORT MILL

Prayer REQUESTS



Contact

Savannah Gavigan

2025 Secretary

843-864-3328

Or at

rockhillshagclub@gmail.com

Please Pray For

Leigh Freeman (foot surgery)

Tommy Davis (health)

Judy Prather (health)

Madeline Jackson Jacob's (transplant)

Steve Williams (loss of wife, Maria)

August



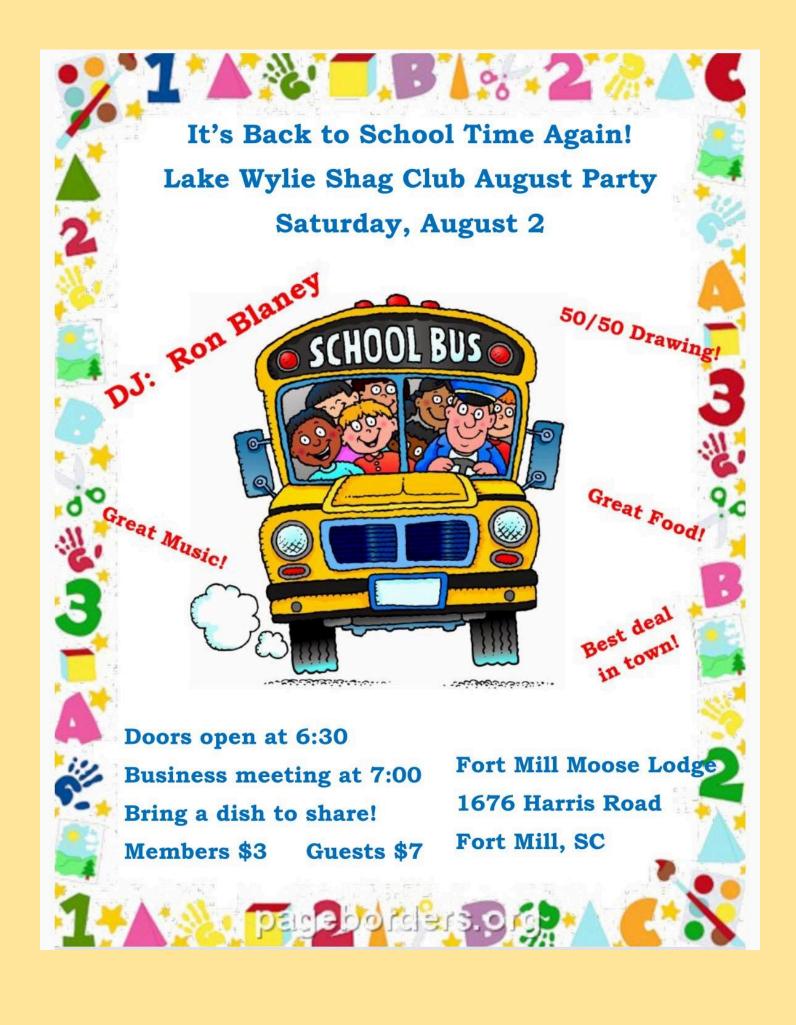
8/3 Amy Wood
8/4 Pati Crump
8/4 Michelle Hall
8/4 Terry Turbyfill
8/6 Chris Stevenson
8/7 Danny Long
8/8 Jimmy Eubanks
8/10 Susan Martin
8/11 Lin Michaelis
8/14 Pansy Phillips
8/17 Glenna Watts
8/18 Bill Kelley

8/18 Ron Whisenant
8/20 Sherry Blackburn
8/22 Lauren Cookman
8/23 Sharon Godfrey
8/23 Steve Williams
8/23 Theresa Williamson
8/24 David Bailey
8/26 Larry Walker
8/28 Candace Ellis
8/28 Gary Weatherlow
8/29 Mandy Distefano
8/30 Tracy Raynor

Anniversaries

8/1 Jack Heustess & Linda Westerman 8/8 Frank & Harriet Price 8/25 David & Debbie Brown 8/27 Bill & Julia Davidson





YORK SHAG CLUB BACK TO SCHOOL

SATURDAY

AUGUST 2

7PM - 11PM

2025

Spring Lake Country Club 1375 Spring Lake Road York, SC 29745

DJ CURTIS TREECE

DONATE SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

DONATIONS OF KLEENEX, PAPER TOWELS, LYSOL WIPES & SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS ARE WELCOME!

SOS CARDS FOR SALE! \$40 EACH

50/50 DRAWING CASH ONLY BAR

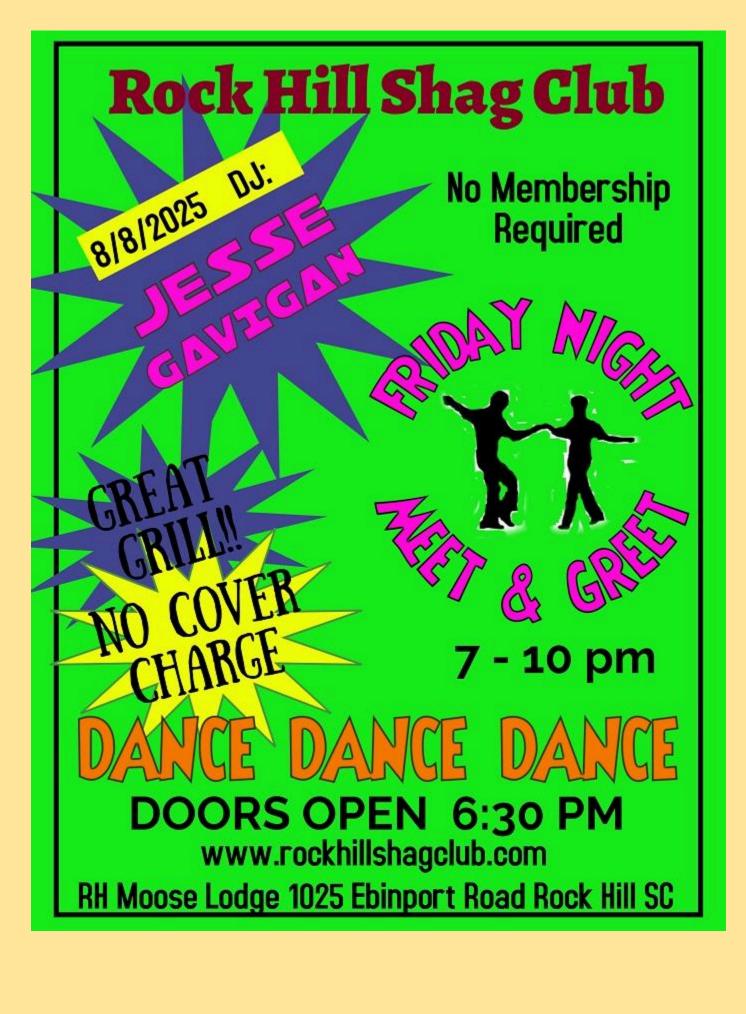
ADMISSION (CASH ONLY):

MEMBERS \$5

GUESTS \$10

PLEASE BRING A DISH FOR THE SNACK TABLE

SEE YOU ON THE DANCE FLOOR!



Go Back to School

with

Gaston Shaggers DJ Johnny B

Saturday, August 9th



We are collecting school supplies for local Gaston County schools: Crayons, Colored Markers, Composition Books, Filler Paper, Glue Sticks, Highlighters, Pencils, Pockel Folders, etc. Cash donations will also be accepted during the party.

Party from 7pm - 10pm

The Moose Lodge in Belmont, NC 122 Robert Russell Road

Dance Lesson - 6:30pm provided by



Nikki Kontoulas & Tommy Beacham

Members \$5 - Guests \$10 50/50 Split Pot Drawing & Door Prizes

Bring your favorite food/snack to share! Bringing a little of the 843 to the 7042!





Rock Hill Shag Club



T-SHIRT NIGHT



SATURDAY, AUGUST 16 DOORS OPEN 6:30

MEMBERS \$5

GUESTS \$7

50/50 DRAWING

FREE SHOOTERS



WEAR YOUR
FAVORITE
RHSC TSHIRT



RAFFLE WAGON

CASH BAR GRILL OPEN

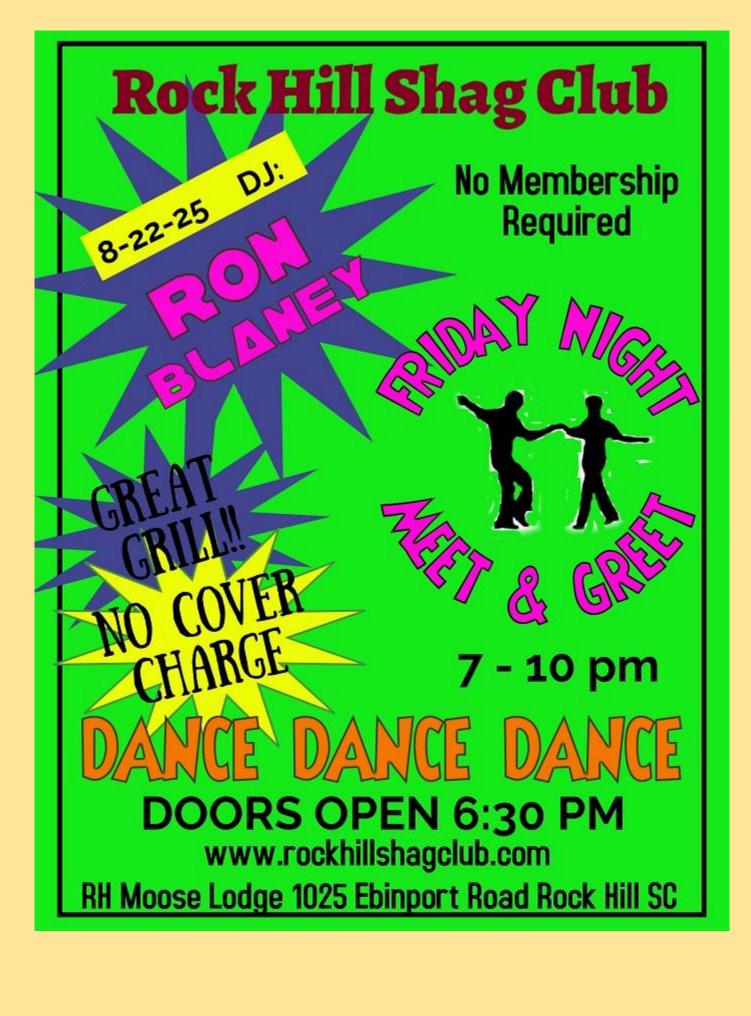
NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL!

RH Moose Lodge, 1025 Ebinport Rd, RHSC

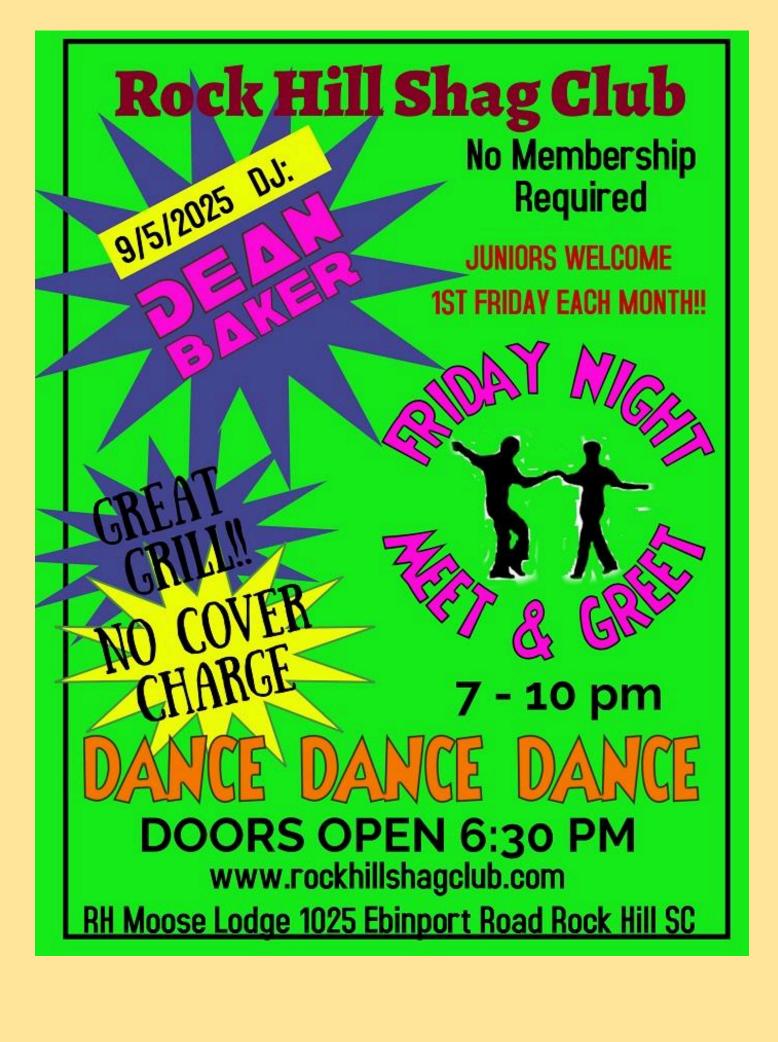


DJ: Tommy Samole















ROCK HELL SHAG CLUB





BEACH PARTY

FRIDAY - SEPT 19

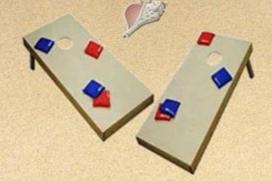
1:00 - 5:00

ON BEACH IN FRONT OF OCEAN BAY RESORT

DJs: Frank Price & Phil Long

Adult Beverages, Beer, Cornhole, & More.....









Through the National FastDance Association, our club dance activities are licensed by:







