



*Making the most of your next SOS event at North Myrtle Beach*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Society of Strangers (SOS) Website** is the go-to for all things SOS and Association of Carolina Shag Clubs (ACSC). There is an SOS phone app that has most SOS information that you need such as group lessons, band schedules, events, hotels, restaurants, etc. <https://www.shagdance.com/index.php>

**SOS Facebook Group Page** has great information about classes, events, and general information on SOS. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/41293702070>

**SOS Major Events:** There are 5 major SOS events yearly: Mid-Winter Workshop (January), Spring Safari (April), Summer Workshop (July), Junior SOS (July) and Fall Migration (September). Actual event dates are located on the SOS website.

**SOS Membership Cards:** North Myrtle Beach (NMB) events and clubs (i.e. Fat Harolds, Ducks, OD Arcade, etc.) affiliated with the ACSC will ask you to show your SOS card for entry. The SOS card is good for the calendar year, January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. You can either purchase your SOS card in NMB (\$45) or at the Virginia Beach Shag Club, VBSC, for \$40. The VBSC has SOS cards available during Wednesday Mix and Mingles, see Bonnie. Without an SOS card, you will pay a cover charge (\$10 to \$20 pp) every time you go to a club.

**Partial Stay versus full SOS (during Spring Safari and Fall Migration):** If not staying for the full 10 days of SOS, strategize when you want to attend. Different events happen during the week that may be more appealing to you than other times (Fun Sunday, Fun Monday, parades, bands, etc). The SOS website information will help in your planning.

**Driving Directions:** For planning purposes factor in a 5 ½ hour drive. Two ways of getting to NMB are either I-95 (US58 to I-95) or back roads (via 117). Each choice has pros and cons. If taking the back roads, talk to other VBSC members to get some recommendations for special by-passes which will make the drive faster.

**Socializing time:** The best time to socialize is during the afternoons when the clubs are less crowded and noise levels are lower. Evenings are LOUD and very crowded.

**Attire** is casual for both day and evenings. During the days shorts are popular for all. In the evenings, ladies tend to dress to impress. Wear cooler clothing as the clubs tend to get very warm in the evenings.



**Dance Shoes:** Tables and Chairs are extremely limited to find in the evenings at the clubs in the evenings. You probably will not have a place to change shoes or stash your belongings. If possible, wear shoes you can wear on the street as well as dance. During the day you probably can take a dance shoe bag as seating may be more available.

**Handbags:** If ladies need a bag for necessities, recommend a small cross-body bag that you can wear while dancing.

**Lanyards:** You do not want to lose your SOS card. You may want to consider getting a lanyard with a clear card holder. You can just loop it around a belt loop then secure it in a pocket for easy access.

**Jackets and Sweaters:** In the evenings, although air-conditioned, the clubs are warm and extremely crowded. In the evenings unless you can snag a chair you will not be able to find a location place your belongings. If you can acquire a chair and table, unless you are with a group of friends, where you take turns dancing, your seat will quickly be taken by others.

**North Myrtle Beach Parking.** Free parking is very limited, almost non-existent, in the late afternoon and evenings. Accommodations within walking distance of Main St. is recommended. If you park downtown, download the Passport App in advance. If you can't find a free parking area you may be able to find a paid parking area. The cost is about \$2 an hour and is easy to do with Passport App.

**Food:** Most of the restaurants in NMB tend to serve bar food, typical fried salty food. Other than hotels, breakfast places are limited. You may want to plan on bringing your own food for breakfast, snacks and perhaps a few other meals during your stay. This will be a great time and cost savings for you.

**Beach Chairs:** For outdoor concerts you will need to bring your own chair and get to the venue EARLY.