

Good Morning and welcome to our first mid-winter workshop meeting at North Myrtle Beach. We are excited that you are here and we hope that this workshop will be one that you will remember, enjoy, and go back to your home club with new ideas.

I do what to share with you information about name tags! When do you wear your name tags? This is the perfect place to utilize those. I know that we have ICONS, Presidents, Officers, past presidents, SOS committee folks, or if you have a club name tag, please feel free to wear them. ACSC will always have paper name tags for you as well but seeing those special tags is certainly acceptable at our ACSC Business meetings and workshops.

I would like to personally welcome all of our new presidents that are in attendance today and personally thank you for your commitment in serving your club. I do know that through dedication, hard work and good leadership that you will make a positive imprint in your local club.

By now, I think you all realize that our theme for our workshop is “Start your engines”! By the time our workshop is completed I hope that you leave with a tank full of gas, a roadmap in your hand and a pit crew trained and ready! As you can see the ACSC Pit Crew team is ready to help and assist you at any time.

We will also have a club presentation for you by the Palmetto Shag Club in Columbia, SC, given by past president Cecil Martin!

The racing world is kind of like our shag world. It keeps growing, although the drivers are getting younger and younger which is something we hope to accomplish in the shag world. The technology used in cars today, is continuously improving. While all of this makes the driver’s job much easier, the one thing that has hasn’t changed very much is the work of the “Pit Crew”. The support and hard work that the driver must have in order for the car to crank, the race to begin, and the competition to occur, is critical. Pit stops, so that the race car can successfully head for the finish line, require planning and continuous fine tuning!

I can already see you thinking silently...it’s like our shag club and you are right! Yes it is!!

The first decision that a race car team will make is building the car!! What kind? How fast? Money and sponsors! Decisions that are thought about and discussed before construction begins. Let’s build our car and crew!

Lisa Caveny, the secretary of our ACSC Pit Crew is going to help us get started! Lisa:

Lisa’s presentation!!!

Thank YOU Lisa!!

Now let's talk about the Pit crew!

Does anyone have any idea on how many members make up a pit crew? We all know that this number can vary and in my readings it appears anywhere from 7 to around 12 members. This already sounds like your club board and committee chairs doesn't it! It is simply amazing at what this team accomplishes in the matter of 12 seconds. As Lisa noted, we all have twelve months to get our job done efficiently and they have twelve seconds for each pit stop that is made. Twelve seconds, that is not long at all to change tires, gas up, make changes to the car and clean the windshield. Luckily for our presidents, they have a significantly longer period of time to get their job done. For your information and a little trivia: The record for the shortest pit stop is eight seconds! But what is so hard to believe is that this must be done with safety at the forefront.

The pit crew is now designed to make up the difference of track time. The evolution of the pit stop just like our dance has come such a long way. In the early years pit stops weren't necessarily needed because most races were 100 mile affairs. In the 60's and 70's when tracks got bigger and races longer it was not uncommon for the pit stop to be during a caution flag and the pit crew would change one side at a time, re-enter the race and next caution change the other side. Many times the race team members shared roles. The driver of the trailer may have been the tire man etc. When the idea of a trained pit crew starting circulating Team Penske hired Jim Beachner, a wrestling coach for 18 years from the University of Buffalo to improve conditioning and fine-tune the powerhouse operation crews and this practice still stands today for most pit crew teams! This is similar to our committee systems. Most clubs have a number of set committees and others as needed. Many times committee members like pit crew members swap roles. Like the pit crew the success of the race depends on the smooth operation of the committees with the respect to their assigned task.

The Crew Chief evaluates each crew member and pit stop in efforts to make his team the best it can be. In shag clubs we must evaluate our teams as well. Some of the most critical issues in our clubs could be membership, do you have a strong membership committee, do they communicate with members in keeping them informed of activities and does the member feel that the environment is one of fun and pleasure!

Are you known as a friendly club? Do you have a welcoming committee that meets and greets members as well as guest upon arrival and departure.

Do you have designated dancers whose job is to dance with guest at each social. This is one job that is fun, brings your guest to the dance floor and the opportunity to meet new shaggers. It is also a perfect way to share information about your shag club and perhaps gain new members!

Now comes a little tougher issue! While pit crew members are paid we are seeking volunteer folks. As Lisa mention earlier, it appears a personal conversation and sharing some noted talents about this person is a great way to recruit volunteers. While this may take a little time the rewards will certainly pay off. All clubs struggle with these same issues but it certainly worth the struggles when we see our shag club members happy and having a great time. Our music, our dance, our shag clubs are just priceless!

Presidents, Start your engines!!!!

I would like to introduce to you Mr. Cecil Martin past president of Palmetto Shag Club, Columbia SC. Cecil will be sharing with you our ACSC Club presentation.

Thank you so much Cecil.

Presidents, I am always looking for volunteers for the club presentation so if you would like to contribute to the workshop program please let me know!

Please remember to share with your board members and officers the monthly e-notes, and also tips and tidbits! For our new presidents please visit www.shagdance.com and click on Presidents corner and you will be able to read past publications. This is a great way to educate you and your board members on ACSC and SOS.

I would like to see all the new presidents when we break for lunch! I have an orientation and a few ideas in helping in your role as president.

I hope that you have enjoyed our program and as always we are here as your ACSC PIT CREW!

