



Harold Bessent

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Some say that Big George Lineberry was "King of the Beach"; some say Harry Driver was "King of the Beach" before Hazel. Let there be no doubt - Harold Bessent has been "King of the Beach" (in size and popularity) since 1980, when he opened Harold's Across the Street.

He was born in Little River, South Carolina on June 13, 1933 and graduated from Soccastee High School in 1952. He was a lifeguard at Ocean Drive during the summers of '49-'52. From '52-'56, he was in the Marine Corps, which was during the Korean Conflict. Also, during this time the lounge fever hit him when he managed the RVA Club and Toot and Tell'n. In 1966, Harold and two other partners opened the Spanish Galleon. Then in 1980, Harold and Ann opened Harold's Across the Street and revived The Pad. In 1983, Harold moved to Fat Harold's (formerly Fat Jack's); also two other lounges - Harold's on the Ocean and Party Time Lounge. Harold has three children and two grandchildren.

Harold's Across the Street and now Fat Harold's has been the favorite home of the shaggers and beach music lovers. If anyone has been a friend, Harold Bessent has, with free membership's to all members of the Shag Club's in the Carolinas, special weekends sponsored by the shag clubs, New Year's Eve, Shag Contests, Hall of Fame Board Meeting Headquarters for SOS - even a wedding, and any other favors we asked for and received.

Harold was inducted into "Beach Shaggers Hall of Fame" this year as an honorary member for his contribution to the dance and the music. We sometimes forget who our true friends are. Harold deserves our loyalty and friendship. When at the beach, don't forget where your home is. See you at Fat Harold's.