



Northern Virginia Shag Club, Inc.

# SHAG RAG

Shag Dancer Newsletter



Vol. I, No. 7

Keep on Shaggin'

September 1994

## From the President

Dear Members:

(Gasp!) Can you believe it? The summer has zoomed by, but now we are looking forward with great anticipation to SOS! and many other fun events coming up this season.

Again, I'm wondering if any of you are planning to sign up for the Virginia State Open competition in October? There will be some experienced shaggers coming in from out of town to compete. But, we in NVSC need to put forth an effort this year, also. We have some very talented dancers in the Club -- Don't Be Shy, dance for your Club!

I hope to see you shaggin' in Myrtle Beach.

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## NVSC Officers and Board Members

President	Dee Basset	569-9793
Vice Pres.	Debbie Nichols	323-8665
Treasurer	Dave Rapson	978-8656
Secretary	Libby Hendrix	425-0006
Membership	Sharon Salpini	425-2848
Newsletter	Janis Grimes	536-7362
Events	Donna Harrington	356-6035
Board Mem.	Larry Camp	823-0282
Board Mem.	Gary Salpini	425-2848

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## Treasurer's Report - by Dave Rapson

Our Club has \$ 397.42 in the bank. There still are a limited number of Shag Buttons and t-shirts available. See Dave or Libby for the First Edition of each!

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## Our Charity is -- SOME - by Donna Harrington

At our last General Membership Meeting, we voted for NVSC to support the charity "So Others Might Eat." Since we're not going to be involved as a group in an activity for them, perhaps we can provide some help with some of the special needs listed in their summer newsletter.

Special needs include: men's deodorant; disposable razors; men's socks; hand lotions; large-sized women's clothing; men's work boots; books and towels. If you can provide any of these things individually, or if you work for a company which can help, please let me know.

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## DANCING At CHAMPIONS

Our field trip on Tuesday, August 23rd, to Champions in Fairfax was illuminating and fun. They welcomed us with great enthusiasm; and they Played Our Beach Music!!

The LARGE WOODEN DANCE FLOOR is elevated, well lit, and has mirrors at one end! The back bar is spacious, with ample floor space to practice off to the side.

We will be going to Champions again to try out the wood, and hope you will join us the next time!

*Directions: Rt. 29 west, past Fairfax Circle -- It's on the right -- you can't miss it! 10090 Old Lee Highway.*

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News / Info -- Contact: Janis Grimes, 202-737-2824; or 703-536-7362 - leave message.



## Richmond Shag Splash Party!

About a dozen of our members went to the First Annual Shag Splash in Richmond, Virginia over the weekend of August 13-15. This was definitely a GOOD TIME. We danced; we ate; we partied; we danced IN THE POOL; we rested; we danced some more; we ate some more; we learned some new steps .... *we had a ball!* Our thanks to STEVE BOOTH for a super job as Chairman of this memorable event, and making us feel welcome!

This was a very well organized weekend, and one of the best parts was watching the MOST INCREDIBLE SHAGGERS who had come in from out of town to teach the workshops, and also the FABULOUS Richmond Shaggers!

Let me just say this (*and I am not making this up*): There is a Bronzed Shoe On A Plaque On The Wall at this club, and it is Not the shoe of anyone's child -- it is ..... the Shoe of a Shagmaster!!

If you haven't yet been to a shag weekend party, you need to get to one and see some real shaggers. It Is Total Coolness!

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## Speaking of Parties . . .

DO YOU HAVE YOUR TICKET YET for the VIRGINIA BEACH Shag Club's 1994 Shag Blast weekend to be held at the beautiful Cavalier Hotel (*on the ocean!*) the last weekend in October?? This is The Premiere Shag Weekend of the Season (after SOS, of course!). *It's Halloween weekend, so you can wear a costume, if you want to (it's not required -- some will, some won't).*

Registration Form included with this newsletter! This Is The Weekend you definitely should not miss. Attendance is limited to only 700 tickets, so don't wait any longer! Get your ticket and room reservation TODAY, before they're sold out!!!

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## Just a Reminder . . .

When we attend our weekly get-together or any other shagging function, please make sure that your behavior and attitude are Positive, reflecting credibility and good PR to all members of NVSC.

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## Thanks to NOVA Shag Club

By Jim Nanney

On August 3rd, history was made at the Juke Box Cafe. I finally made it through an entire night without dancing anything other than Carolina Shag. I do believe I'm getting comfortable with this Carolina Shag dance -- and I've always liked it. (The presence of Sonny Carver and Brent Key that night also helped keep me in line!).

My thanks to the NOVA Shag Club ladies whose good spirits have tolerated my learning spell. It's a pleasure shaggin' with you!

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## FLASH!! The Latest .....

As you already know, CHARLIE WOMBLE and JACKIE McGEE will be here in October for the 1994 VIRGINIA STATE OPEN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS to be held at the Tyson's Westpark Hotel on Columbus Day weekend, October 7, 8 and 9. They will teach beginner and intermediate C. Shag workshops on Saturday, October 8th, and (!) *they have agreed to teach an ADVANCED C. Shag workshop for us at 10 a.m. on Sunday, 9th October at Randy's Lounge.* Pre-pay \$10; or at the door \$15. See enclosed information -- you won't want to miss this!

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## CONGRATULATIONS, DAN!

NVSC Member Dan Shames and his lovely partner Linda Jean Harrill took 3rd place in the Showcase Division at Barry Durand's Swing Fling Competition at the Hyatt in Reston, VA the weekend of July 30th! They performed a dynamite, HotHotHot medley of C. Shag, West Coast Swing and Cha-Cha, (*but it was mostly Shag!*) -- and the crowd loved it! CONGRATULATIONS, Dan and Linda Jean!!

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## Happy, Happy Birthday . . .



### September Birthdays:

- 2 - Troy Taylor
- 6 - Richard Casciato
- 27 - Pat Parrott

## Carolina Shag Lessons

FREE SHAG LESSONS at 7:30 sharp every Wednesday night given by NVSC members. Our volunteers do a good job of teaching beginner and intermediate steps, and you should take advantage of this FREE opportunity to learn to Shag, the Carolina way! *You Can Do It!*

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### Shagging Tips

• Listen to the Beat of the music, and Step On the Beat.

- Shag is danced on a slot in a back and forth movement, not in a circular movement. Imagine that your hand is on a post that you're moving toward and away from.
- Take SMALL STEPS for better control.
- Body movement is basically from the waist down, with knees slightly bent.

### SOME FURTHER LEARNING TIPS:

1. Learn in small doses; don't expect to learn everything at once. Be patient and kind to yourself, and give yourself time to learn. Don't make unreasonable demands on yourself or your dance partner. Dancing is fun, and learning should be fun, too!
2. Take notes, and review them later the same evening. Practice by yourself (yes, alone!), and go over new steps in your mind --you'll progress much faster if you do.
3. Measure your progress against your own previous performance, not against the couple dancing next to you, and especially not competitors!
4. Get used to practicing without feeling embarrassed on the dance floor. People are watching the better dancers anyway, so don't sweat it!
5. Don't scold or argue with your dance partner; it does not lead to making progress. Keep things in perspective and "light."

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## Dance Party in The Plains, VA - by Our Roving Shag Reporter

Friday evening, August 27th, five NVSC members and three guests attended a dance party in The Plains, VA. Everyone danced in the night air and under the stars and the moon. It was very nice.

The love bug must have bitten one Club member (who shall remain anonymous in fear of retribution -- but, who was instrumental in getting the group together to go). Another Club member fell in love five times with someone wearing a navy blue shirt and white Bermuda shorts.

One guest and one of our Club members danced with Robert Duvall (!), a real bona fide celebrity. We'll keep her name anonymous too, because if you mention it she will become very obnoxious and want to exclaim all over again every detail of the dance, even down to what he was wearing. She'll tell you that, "He asked me!" and he said, "This is great music!" And, that he saw Jackie McGee and Charlie Womble compete in Las Vegas, and he thought they should have won. She also invited the Duvalls to join us at the Juke Box Cafe sometime for shaggin'. Then she'll gush on about her conversation with Waylon Jennings, the country western singer, who was there as a guest of the Duvalls, but he left early to return home to Nashville. (That must have been his limo parked outside.) Another fun evening for NVSC shaggers!!

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## NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

**REMEMBER:** The newsletter will be available on the first Wednesday of each month at our regular get-together at the Juke Box Cafe. Membership Secretary Sharon Salpini will give out copies of the newsletter to all Club Members present. (*This is an attempt to save on postage, which is costing us a bundle since we don't have enough members yet to use the bulk rate.*)

So, Remember to pick up your newsletter (and yes, if you can't be with us the first week, we'll still mail it to you!).

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## MISSING!!

PLEASE RETURN: Carolina Shag instructional videos by Charlie and Jackie - Please contact Debbie or Nick at 703-323-8665.

## Shagger Profile -- Patricia Parrott

*Nickname:* Pat, Patty, Patsy, Trish, Trisha, Polly  
(no crackers, please)

*Occupation:* I play all day. I'm retired.

*Birthday:* I never tell; however, my car is 10 years old. Just like my old car I still look good, run smooth, and have no scratches, no dents, no rust.

*Home town:* Everywhere, USA (born in Norfolk, VA)

*Marital Status:* Maybe again someday

*Self-portrait:* Contented, at last

*Motto:* As written by an ancestor of mine: "I works hard, chews my own tobacco and dos and ses what I please when intoxicated."

*Dream:* To know my dreams

*Inspiration:* God, my Creator, Jesus, my Master, and my family are my constant inspiration

*Bad Habit:* Late night with Letterman and Arsenio.

*Hobby:* They don't call me the Queen of Twirl for nothing!

*Luxury defined:* Plenty of time, traveling/shopping Europe, with hairdresser, overnight in 5-star hotels.

*Drink or wine:* Yes, I drink and occasionally whine.

*TV Program:* I learn all my good stuff from Oprah

*Books at bedside:* OK, you asked: *Vision, A Guide to Mutual Funds, One Up On Wall Street, Ageless Body, Timeless Mind, New Money Strategies for the 90's, Consumer Reports, Embraced By The Light, American Wines, An Easy Guide to Meditation, The Book of Life*

*Last Words:* I'm not leaving.

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## New Members in August

Welcome! Steve Adams and Patricia Jordan.

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## SOS AT MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.

### Fall Migration Sept. 9-18

The SOS 1994 Fall Migration in North Myrtle Beach, SC, has been extended to ten full days, beginning September 9th - 18th!

Plan to enjoy the Beach, the Strand, the Music and Shaggin' with old and new friends!

This could be your best vacation ever! We hear that once you've attended SOS at Myrtle Beach, you will not miss another one.

Send now for your S.O.S. membership/admission card. (Application enclosed.)

Make your room reservations early!

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## ThanksThanksThanks!!!

Special Thanks to EDDY FARMER!! Many, many thank you's for our new membership cards!

Also, thanks to Eddy's efforts, we can now order NVSC LUGGAGE TAGS for \$5.00, a unique way to raise funds for our Club. See Eddy for your NVSC luggage tag!

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## Want Ads:

**Another Room to Rent** - in FAIRFAX (Franklin Farm): Master bedroom w/priv. bath, util/cable incl., w/d, kit. priv., \$425 - Avail. 1st Sept., Leave msg: 703-742-9329.

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## The Shagmaster Says:

- Keep your nails clipped
- Take smaller steps
- Wear Old Spice -the authentic Scent of Shaggers
- *Keep on shaggin'*

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## From the Editor

HEY, Y'ALL! What's been happening?? Well, remember to let me know, okay? Want to write an article; a column; an ad; your Shagger Profile? Call me, Call me, Call me! Remember ..... This is YOUR Newsletter! *See ya shaggin'*



MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA SHAG CLUB

The quarterly meeting of Northern Virginia Shag Club was held Monday, July 11, 1994 at Heatherwood Retirement Community, 9642 Burke Lake Road, Burke, Virginia 22015 at 7:30 p.m. [Dee's place of work-- Thank you, Dee!] The membership discussed the cost of printing and mailing the newsletters. [Please refer to Sharon Salpini's article in last month's newsletter.] A Membership Committee was formed-- Sharon Salpini, Chairperson, Donna Harrington, Charlie Price and James Taylor. [Please contact one of the above-named if you need flyers or have prospective members, etc.] Charity Committee--Members discussed options. It is not a requirement for joining ACSC but it does give club more benefits, especially clubs which operate under corporations not for profit. Donna Harrington and Gary Salpini made presentations on charities they had researched. The members motioned to accept SOME (the charity for elderly and homeless) as the Club's official charitable organization. It was so voted. Meeting Place for Weekly Dances-- Dave Rapson reported on several places that he had visited and many were not suitable (dance floor too small), or not accommodating (dining hours conflicted), or affordable (the restaurants/clubs were seeking generous revenues from our patronage). Matter was left open and members agreed (to Dee's suggestion) that we would make a field trip to Fast Eddies on Thursday to see for ourselves how it might work out. Members plan to go Thursday, July 14th. [Post note: we went, we ate, we danced, we played our own music--afterwards it was pointed out to management at Fast Eddies that they did not have a dance permit. Therefore, they cannot allow dancing there at this time. Also, by membership phone call, members made field trip to Champions on Tuesday, August 23rd. Attendance was high and a great time was had. Dave Rapson will follow up with report on how receptively we were received by management of Champions.] Members did not vote for a move at this

time as they want to visit other facilities. Members agreed that our Club is outgrowing the Juke Box. Shirts--Dee displayed samples of three different shirts. She encouraged members to advise Libby Hendrix as to what members prefer (as to style, color and size). Also, Dee welcomed members to inform Libby if they have a good source for obtaining tee shirts at a practical price and to submit bids. We have the options of having embroidery or screen print placed on the shirts. [Post note-- a thank you is extended to the members for their input regarding shirt preferences. I will have follow up questionnaire and report on this soon.] Shag Tags--Donna Harrington reported that checks were sent in and were payable to the DMV but we do not know if the person in charge of this project secured enough people to accomplish the processing of the Shag Tags. [It is believed that they need approximately 30 more commitments.] Larry Camp mentioned that after the checks are six months old we will need to re-write out-dated. [Direct any questions to Donna Harrington re this matter. Events--Donna reported her findings on the possibility of getting dinner/dance group on the Dandy. The minimum number of patrons required to book the Dandy is (50) but no guarantee of our shag music being played. Requirement of 125 bookings will enable us to have our shag music played. Then the cost would be approximately \$25.50 per person for the evening. Since this did not seem feasible, the idea was not further discussed. Advertising-- Donna called radio stations and asked why our announcements were not aired. She was told if our club sponsors a charity, we would get quicker results (for public service announcements). Also, we can buy time on Johnnie Dark's show or sponsor traffic reports (WBIG 100.3). Sherri Bassham mentioned that she needs a promo Charlie Byrd tape so she can present it to WBIG radio station for the possibility of having Charlie Byrd's program aired on a Saturday or Sunday. [Charlie sometimes deejay's at Razzle's Lounge in Richmond,

Virginia and some of his syndicated programs can be heard on radio stations throughout the south.] Dee advised that she would forward Charlie's promo tape to Sherry asap. Sherri will make appointment with Al Santos of WBIG to present it. Workshops--Donna advised that Steve Booth of Richmond Shag Club volunteered his time & talents to give shag lessons/workshop. Donna is to see what his availability is for September or October and will report back to Club. Peter Jones of Virginia Beach is also willing to return to give lessons/workshop. Committee will find out if there will be a fee for his services. Teaching--Charlie Price voiced his opinion that he suspected we were losing members [prospective members] because we did not have structured dance lessons and, lessons did not start on time. Dee pointed out that she attended most of the Wednesday night functions and was there to instruct whoever (and whenever--at various times she would be interrupted during the course of the evening) desired to learn to shag, or learn a new step. Eddy Farmer interjected with a THANK YOU to Dee for putting in her time and efforts to keep this club going. There was mention of starting lessons later in the evening. Dee pointed out that it was best to start lessons before Bert started playing the music as beginners really cannot get the rhythm and count at the same time! Libby volunteered to teach beginners but not on an every week basis. Donna Harrington pointed out that she would like to see structured lessons for intermediate dancers as well. There were no volunteers for the job of organizing the structured lessons, therefore discussion was dropped. [Post note--After the meeting, Ruth Rapson volunteered to organize a calendar of volunteer teachers of beginning and intermediate shag. Therefore, give Ruth your support--VOLUNTEER!!!] There being no further business, meeting was adjourned. RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, LIBBY HENDRIX, SECRETARY

YOU NEED THIS PASS  
TO ATTEND SOS!

**American Cultural Arts Society**

P.O. Box 14129  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55114  
(612) 724-7292

Phil Sawyer  
Society of Strangers  
P.O. Box 4688  
Columbia, SC 29204

June 3, 1993

Dear Phil:

We've been home about a month now and have been reluctantly settling down to the reality of everyday existence! We have been so busy telling people about our Carolina experiences—through our newsletter, promotional performances, personal contacts, and the like—that we find we are long overdue in getting this personal note to you.

Phil, we can't tell you how much fun we had! We talked to the six other American Dance Ensemble members who came on the trip about their reactions. They all thought the performances at the O.D. Cafe and Fat Harold's were among the most memorable adventures they'd ever had. The reception we got was truly exhilarating! Thank you, thank you, thank you for all your support and hard work in promoting our group and our message. We also appreciate you and Chick hosting our delightful "night on the town."

We are enclosing a copy of the newsletter article that sums up, in a kaleidoscopic way, our combined impressions of the trip. The national dance magazine, *Dancing USA*, will also publish some version of it. We hope it conveys in some small way our appreciation. Again, thank you.

Very truly yours,

AMERICAN CULTURAL ARTS SOCIETY

*Lance R. Benishek*  
Lance R. Benishek

*Catherine A. Rudenick*  
Catherine A. Rudenick

**SOS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

\$25.00 per person

\_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ New

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

AGE(S) \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Night) \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: SOS, P.O. Box 4688, Columbia, SC 29204

**SOS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

\$25.00 per person

\_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ New

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

AGE(S) \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Night) \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: SOS, P.O. Box 4688, Columbia, SC 29204

  
Carefree Times

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

