



# SHAG RAG

Shag Dancer Newsletter



Vol. I, No. 10

Keep on Shaggin'

December 1994

## From the President - By Dee Bassett

Dear Members:

### A New Beginning:

I find myself at an end of something I enjoy. It is also a new beginning.

Thanks a bunch for the support and encouragement, and willingness by everyone, to "make things happen."

There are wonderful opportunities and possibilities for the Club in the days ahead. I would hope each of you will do your part to see to its continued growth and good works.

The next Board Meeting will be held at Heatherwood Retirement Community on Monday, Dec. 5th, at 7 p.m. Newly elected officers and board members are invited to attend.

The new officers and board members will take office January 1, 1995. Another year of Fun, Friends, Good Music, and Dance, Dance, Dance.

**\*\* Those attending Mid-Winter Party in Myrtle Beach must have a RED DOT on their S.O.S. card. Call DEE to get RED DOTS.**

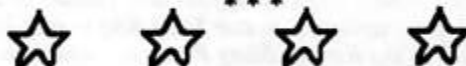
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## NVSC Officers and Board Members

President	Dee Bassett	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

## CONGRATULATIONS, New NVSC Officers and Board Members, 1995

President	Charlie Price	790-0783
Vice Pres.	Donna Harrington	356-6035
Treasurer	John Belt	750-2367
Secretary	Patricia Parrott	591-4113
Board Mem.	Janis Grimes	536-7362
Board Mem.	Pauline Easby-Smith	759-4478
Board Mem.	Rick Hendrix	425-0006



## We're Havin' a Party .....

PAULINE Easby-Smith has graciously offered to open her home to all of us for NVSC's First Annual Christmas Party! It will begin at 8 p.m., on Saturday, December 17th, and there will be great music, fine food, good friends, and . . . a chance to dance! Bring your own beverages, AND your favorite dish to put on the buffet table. Directions are included with this newsletter -- come on out and join us for our Club's FIRST CHRISTMAS PARTY! See you there!!  
RSVP: Pat Parrott - 703-591-4113  
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## Treasurer's Report - By Dave Rapson

We have \$819.73 in the bank, having collected significant new member dues. We just about broke even on the Carver workshop, which was attended by 43 people. We collected \$1,290; and spent \$740 for the lessons and \$549.16 for the buffet and use of Blackie's dance floor. This gave us a profit for that event of \$0.88. *Yes, 88 cents, less than a dollar. But, hey, we had a great time, and we learned the Prissy Split!*

There are 16 polo shirts on order, and 7 t-shirts; these items are prepaid. Get your order in before Dec. 31st to have these shirts personalized at No Additional Cost! Contact LIBBY - 425-0006.

## THE ROVING SHAG REPORTER -- Justifiably Proud

Quietly making my rounds, with an eavesdropping here, and an eavesdropping there, this ole roving shag reporter found that the NOVA Shag Rag newsletter is read and acclaimed not just by our Club members for whom it's intended, but by folks in other clubs who have an opportunity to read it. We have reason for pride! Just standing there (yes, I attended the Virginia Beach Shag Blast), I listened as a complete stranger from North Carolina expressed praise for the Shag Rag! "One of the best," he said. I've heard favorable comments from inside and outside the Club. "It's fantastic." "It has a personal penchant that I like." "I read it cover to cover." "I keep all of them." A major component for the laudation is the skill, expertise and flair of the newsletter editor. An attributing component is that it solicits, accepts, and receives participation from the Club membership. It's -- as our editor says . . . Your Newsletter!

*Editor's Note: (!!) Thank you, and Thanks to Everyone who has contributed to our Shag Rag -- and Special Thanks to the Roving Shag Reporter, who is a very talented writer, indeed. And, now -- the Winner . . . of the First Shag Rag Golden Keyboard Award is . . . Roving Shag Reporter! Congratulations!*

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## Did You Know . . .

### THE SHAG

If you're a lover of America's own great music, get ready for the waves of beach music and learn to Shag.

In the summers of the 50's, the college kids vacationing at the beaches in North and South Carolina were exposed to a new type of music. It wasn't the music of the hit parade or the Ed Sullivan Show that their parents listened to -- it was called Rhythm and Blues, and beach people were doing a new dance to this music, and it was called "the Shag."

The kids loved their newly discovered music, but when they returned home to Raleigh, Charlotte or Richmond, the new music was not to be heard -- so it was back to the beach for "beach music."

The Shag is the official dance of the State of South Carolina. It has become an art form with

unlimited precision steps such as the sugarfoot, belly roll and boogie walk.

Twice a year in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, there is a reunion of Association of Carolina Shag Clubs. Clubs from South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, and Florida that represent about 11,700 members meet there to dance the night away. SOS is where yesterday's beachgoers immerse themselves in the fountain of youth by listening to beach music, dancing the shag and reliving their teenage years. *Reprinted from Boogie On The Bay Shag Club - by Mary Sutton.*

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## FLASH!!

### Catfish is our 100th Member!

By Pauline Easby-Smith

NVSC is now 100+ members strong! On November 9th, John "Catfish" Kelly, from Richmond, VA, stopped in to join us for a night of fun and camaraderie, and became our 100th member. Catfish is not only well known in shag circles, but is also the co-owner of RAZZLES, the Richmond Shag Club's great new meeting place. Welcome, Catfish, to our growing Club!

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### A Thank-You Party For Us!

The Easter Seals Society hosted a thank -you party which was attended by members of NVSC on Saturday, November 5th. SONNY and JUDY CARVER were there with us, and RICK HENDRIX was our great DJ for the evening -- we had a good time, and so did our hosts. MANY THANKS to SONNY and JUDY for coming up here and giving a wonderful workshop! It was attended by folks from as far away as New York and North Carolina -- Virginia Beach folks were here, too!

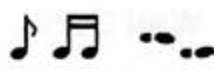
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### Speaking of Parties . . . - By H.K. Lee

During the latter part of January 1995, the ARC (formerly Association of Retarded Citizens) of Northern Virginia will be having their Second Annual Beach Music Dance. NVSC will help to sponsor this dance.

Club members will put on a shag dance demonstration and, hopefully, will offer basic shag and line dance lessons as an additional feature for the event.

Last year, the fabulous Waller Family performed at the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria. Hundreds of people partied throughout the evening with free hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine provided. Watch for more details to follow.



In Search Of . . .



## IT DOESN'T SNOW AT THE BEACH!

GET READY for the Mid-Winter Classic Party coming up in January 1995 at North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

**\*\*You must have a current 1995 S.O.S. membership card, plus the ACSC stickers on your card. Info included - see page 4.**

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## New Members in November

Welcome, new members!! Char DeWalt, Catfish Kelly, and because of the Thanksgiving Holidays, the rest of the new members (and there were more than a few!) who joined in November will have to be welcomed in the next issue! *Sorry about that!*

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## Member Music Survey!

Here's your chance to list your top five or ten FAVORITE SHAG DANCE SONGS. We're compiling a list of the Top 50 Tunes that we love to hear -- the beach music that makes us feel like dancin' the night away.

Take a few minutes and Think About It! Send or bring in your list of favorite shag tunes -- let's get back to the beach!!

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## Speaking of Beach Music . . .

Our DJ, Bert Nelbach, has gone all the way to Clinton, North Carolina, in search of the best in beach music!! Let Bert know what you want to hear!

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# SHAG & BOP

## Comparison and Contrast



A Study of Two Similar But Different Dance Styles in 4/4 Time — by Phil Sawyer



You "lag to shag;" you "hop to bop." Shagging is lazy; bopping is aerobic. Shagging is a slow jitterbug; bopping is a fast, dynamic combination of the Lindy and the Disco.

How are they so much alike? Why are they so different? Grab yourself a "blue hand Bud" and hang on! I'm gonna try to answer these questions. I am sure that there will be those who will disagree with my observations. That's fine. That's why we have Democrats and Republicans, shaggers and boppers.

Let's start with shag. (That's the one I know the most about.) I've been around it a long, long time. I learned to shag in the mid-forties, and like everyone else of the era, sort of adapted it from the jitterbug. The shag was born somewhere on the Atlantic seaboard between Virginia Beach and Savannah. No one knows exactly where or what year. It just evolved.

One thing is certain. The slower, sultry, sexy moods of the black rhythm and blues bands had a lot to do with it. On the North and South Carolina coast, Billy Ward and The Dominoes, Bull Moose Jackson, The Tams, and The Clovers began to nudge the big bands of Tommy Dorsey and Glenn Miller off the juke boxes; and the small pavilion dance floors became the social meccas of generations of teens and college

kids. It was a summer world of a cold beer on a warm night with a hot date and no plans for tomorrow.

Eight counts make up the basic shag step with the dancers moving into and away from each other with almost all of the motion from the waist down. There is little or no vertical movement from the waist up, and the shaggers do not veer to one side of the other. We dance "North and South," as we say, not East and West, and glide like nuns walk.

In the early days, shag was a male chauvinistic dance with the guy doing almost all the dancing and the girl anchoring or "being his doorknob." But that's all changed now, and the partners now share equal dancing time. There are many steps, and most of them are "murre." The fly-back, sugarfoot, duck walk, boogie walk, stutter step, pick, and lean are repertoire, and the queen steps of shagging are the pivot and "belly roll."

Bop is a far more vigorous dance. It has remained much more closely related to the jitterbug, from which it too descended. The added components seem to be disco related; and there is much more turning, crossing, and tossing. Boppers move all of their bodies in rhythmic sways and swings and move their heads, shoulders, hips, and legs in a never ending combination of complex steps

and moves. Boppers showcase the girls in a way that would make the Miss America green with envy. It is an awesome dance to watch and even more fun to do.

Boppers tend to use more floor space than shaggers do. Many good shaggers can do the whole record in a space not much larger than a hula hoop, while the entire floor might be needed for one good bop routine. Bop probably originated on ballroom and dance hall floors, which were larger by far than the original shagging floors.

While shag is a Carolina thing, bop is standard dance in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. We have come together under the umbrella of the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs, and the Spring and Fall editions of the S.O.S. (Society of Strangers) is the glue that holds us together. We meet and mingle well, dance with each other, and have genuine respect and admiration for each other's dance styles. It is our love of the music, the dance, the camaraderie, and the carefree times of a beach weekend together that makes it happen.

I am sure that anyone involved in the swing dance movement would be comfortable with a bop or shag event. We would love for you to join us, and we'll be coming your way soon.

*Ed. Note: This article will soon appear in a new publication called Jitterbug Magazine.*

## Shagger Profile -- Rick Hendrix

*Occupation:* Sales

*Birthday:* March 3rd

*Hometown:* Jamestown, NC

*Marital Status:* Yes

*Self-Portrait:* Tall, fair and handsome

*Motto:* Too much ain't enough!

*Dream:* To own the most beautiful exotic bird in North America

*Inspiration:* Dave Moore, "Cadillac" Jack Smith and Motorcycle Mama

*Bad Habit:* Many

*Hobby:* Raising exotic birds

*Luxury defined:* Low Rider Harley Davidson

*Drink or Wine:* Ginger Ale

*TV Program:* WWF Super Brawl

*Books at bedside:* Andrew Greeley

*Last words:* "Let's stomp some grapes"

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## FREE - Carolina Shag Lessons

The weather is getting colder, but Shaggers are still Dancin' at the Beach (*in spirit at least!*), every Wednesday night at the Juke Box Cafe!

**FREE SHAG LESSONS - Juke Box Cafe at 7:30 sharp every Wednesday night** 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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**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE!!!**

### SOS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Send your Name, Address, Age, Phone # and \$25.00 - Renewal or New Member

Mail to:

SOS, POB 4688, Columbia, SC 29204

## Get Well Soon, Dallas !

Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery to member Dallas Campbell, who was in ICU at Fairfax Hospital over the Thanksgiving holidays recovering from a respiratory ailment.

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## Happy, Happy Birthday ...



### December Birthdays:

- 4 - Al Martina
- 5 - Lee Ann Woodcock
- 6 - Barry Kumar
- 12 - Debbie Nichols
- 13 - Frank DelPiano
- 19 - Dotty Hale
- Dave Rapson
- Bob Rogers

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## HEY!!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

**Birthday Celebrations:** A Big Thank You to **GEORGE MURRAY!** George donated funds to purchase the November birthday cake.

On the last Wednesday of each month, we celebrate the birthdays of our members. If you would like to donate a cake or money for the monthly birthday celebration, please contact **SHARON SALPINI (425-2848)** or **RUTH RAPSON (978-8656)**

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## The Shagmaster Says:

- ENCOURAGE - *don't criticize* - new Shaggers
- Take **SMALLER STEPS**
- Do Not Carry Drinks or Lit Cigarettes onto the dance floor!!
- Plan to attend Mid-Winters, and/or Spring SOS!!
- *Keep on shaggin'*

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## From the Editor

HEY, Y'All! What's happening? Enjoying some fancy dancin' at holiday parties? 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'.*

- General Membership Meeting of the Northern Virginia Shag Club was held November 14, 1994 at Heatherwood Retirement Community, 9642 Burke Lake Road, Burke, Virginia at 7:00 p.m. Dee Bassett, President, called meeting to order. REPORTS AND OLD BUSINESS.....  
Treasurer's Report was given by Ruth Rapson, due to Dave's absence. \$918.00 reported in the treasury. [Secretary was absent as well, therefore, no report. Ruth Rapson volunteered to take minutes. Thank you, Ruth.] It was noted that an audit of the books is needed before new officers step in. H.K. Lee, Carol Vann and John Belt volunteered to take on that duty.
- EVENTS.....Pauline Easby-Smith and Donna Harrington will be hosting a Christmas party on Saturday, December 17th for N.V.S.C. Members are requested to bring items for donation to SOME (N.V.S.C.'s designated charity). Also, possible 50/50 Raffle for donation to SOME. Dee donated Sunday Brunch passes (given to her by Blackies) to be given away as door prizes. [If other members have door prizes to donate, contact Libby, Donna or Pauline.] Watch for flyers detailing this event! Rick Hendrix reported on the Sonny & Judy Carver workshop held at Blackie's, Sat. Nov. 12th. It was a success. 40 people attended. Rick would like to schedule other workshops in March & June and proposed a Beach Blast in '95. Sonny and Judy were receptive to do a repeat workshop. [Rick is in contact with other instructors as well..stay tuned!]
- MEMBERSHIP.....Sharon Salpini reports 104 members. It was suggested that there be a special non-member rate set up for non-members attending our workshops. Their fee would include \$15 automatic membership into Club. Also, make an extra effort to be friendly to new members or prospective members--get them out of their seats & up dancing!
- NEWSLETTER.....Janis Grimes notes that deadline for submitting articles for the publication of SHAG RAG is 3rd Friday of the month.
- DANCE LESSONS...NVSC will continue to give free dance lessons at Juke Box. Jim Nanny volunteered to chair and co-ordinate dance lessons for remainder of '94. Members are reminded of dance courtesy. [We have a larger dance floor and can get more people on it. Be conscious of your surroundings and watch for dancers around you. Carolina Shag dancers keep their arms close to body and keep their footwork tight (small steps). Guys--lead your women well, keep them from hitting other dancers. Ladies--wear flats, no heels please. (It is destructive to floor, not to mention someone's foot or leg!)] Any complaints of rude or unruly dancers at Juke Box can be reported to John Belt. He will take it up with management.
- BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS.....Need volunteers to bring cake, cookies, etc. last Wed. at Juke Box. George Murray donated \$10 for November's party.
- NEW BUSINESS...Bylaws--Club has grown and during the year it has been necessitated to change different aspects of bylaws. Membership voted and approved to change language in bylaws "to provide its membership with free dance lessons, taught by members at regularly scheduled Club functions and opportunities to associate with others who likewise enjoy and promote Carolina Shag dancing". It was noted that this Club was not organized for any one's personal gain--the Club is strictly social for promoting Carolina Shag and not for profit.
- NEW OFFICERS...are invited to Dec. Board Mtg. Board will discuss bylaws [and meet with counter parts to turn over duties to new officers]. The '94 Board worked hard to help make Club grow, prosper and set foundation. A reminder to Club members--if you are unhappy with the way Club is run, go to Board with your suggestions, complaints. Board Members--please attend all meetings if possible--the success of the Club depends on you. (Rick is going to "crack his biker's whip" to see to this!)
- ELECTIONS...Dec nominated Libby Hendrix for President (she accepted) [Thank you to those who voted for me!] There were no further nominations from the floor. Ballots were turned in and Sharon Salpini counted (twice)--included absentee ballots. New officers of N.V.S.C. are:  
Charlie Price--President & Director  
Donna Harrington--V.P. & Director  
Pat Parrott--Secretary & Director  
John Belt--Treasurer & Director  
Janis Grimes--Director  
Pauline Easby-Smith--Director  
Rick Hendrix--Director
- OTHER BUSINESS...Rick Hendrix would like to sponsor male and female shaggers from NVSC for the Virginia Shagger Hall of Fame who must be over 50 years of age and be able to do basic, pivot and two mirror steps.
- There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

DIRECTORS' MONTHLY MEETING SET FOR DEC. 5TH AT HEATHERWOOD, 7PM TRANSITION MEETING FOR 1994 & 1995 OFFICERS ONLY.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Libby*



# The Easter Seal Society of Virginia, Inc.

Give

Ability

A

Chance

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Chairman of the Board  
John W. Mottica, Jr., Salem  
First Vice Chairman  
Walter W. Kramer, Great Falls  
Second Vice Chairman  
Thomas W. Ruble, Vinton  
Secretary  
Bruce C. Lunsford, Roanoke  
Treasurer  
Douglas S. Hall, Richmond

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George Blair, Salem  
Murray Bullock, Jr., Richmond  
Peter G. Decker, Jr., Esq., Norfolk  
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Melby P. Hamlett, Roanoke  
John M. Hudgins, Salem  
David Lee, Roanoke  
Walton Mahon, Bowling Green  
Lartha E. Matthews, Parkley  
James O. Mitzlaff, Vinton  
Richard A. Moats, Woodbridge  
Robert W. Morris, Virginia Beach  
Roger D. Neathawk, Richmond  
Vette Rolley, Midlothian  
Margaret Allen Thomas, Newport News  
Jan P. Vint, Richmond  
Joseph T. Widger, Virginia Beach  
Craig Wintz, Falls Church

President  
Robert Knight

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800-365-1656 (Va. only)  
(703) 563-8928 (fax)  
(703) 362-7861 (VDT)

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(703) 538-2407 (TTY)

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Mechanicville, Va. 23111-2800  
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(804) 746-9214 (fax)

3101 Magic Hollow Blvd.  
Virginia Beach, Va. 23456-3010  
(804) 468-3140 (phone)  
(804) 468-3452 (fax)  
Mailing Address  
P.O. Box 9185  
Virginia Beach, Va. 23450-9185

Camp Easter Seal-East  
20500 Easter Seal Dr.  
Milford, Va. 22514-9730  
(804) 633-9855

Camp Easter Seal-West  
Route 2, Box 534  
New Castle, Va. 24127-9566  
(703) 864-5750

Federal Tax ID  
#54-0515735

November 14, 1994

Shag Club of Northern Virginia  
% Donna Harrington  
1507 Snughill Court  
Vienna, VA 22182

Dear Shaggers:

We would very much like to thank you for making our "Evening with Friends" Volunteer Party such a great success. We were elated to see everyone having such a wonderful time and I know I *really* enjoyed the Shag lessons! Thanks!

We are grateful for your support and encouragement through the past year and we can never say "thank you" enough. With your kindness, The Easter Seal Society of Virginia has continued to provide quality services for people with disabilities. From audiology to speech therapy and various special-needs programs, we cannot continue without the volunteer support of organizations like the Shag Club.

We wish each and every Shag Club member the very best for the holidays and the coming year. Thank you again.

*What fun! You all know how to have a good time! Thank!*

lp

Sincerely,

Lawrence A. Plummer  
Special Events Coordinator

Formerly The Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults, Inc. of Virginia

