



SHAG RAG

Shag Dancer Newsletter



Vol. II, No. 1

Keep on Shaggin'

January 1995

From the President - By Charlie Price

Dear Members:

What a year! One of the great vintages! From an idea and a dream in the minds of just a handful of people, to a Club with more than 100 members, recognition by the ACSC, workshops, a dynamite logo, a banner, buttons and shirts, a newsletter that is the envy of many, and money in the bank! It couldn't have been done without you, and you came through with flying colors!

On behalf of all my fellow new Officers and Board Members, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your past -- and, I hope, continued -- support of our Club. Both we, and the former Officers and Board Members, have a lot of ideas to help our Club grow and improve, but we also need your input. Let us know your ideas, hopes, wishes, and dreams for your Club. And, most of all, please continue to contribute your help and support. Together, we can and will make 1995 another great year for our Club.

NVSC Officers and Board Members

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

An Important Reminder - By Charlie Price

As I was writing the President's column, I remembered an old corporate client who always kept a file under the heading "Orchids and Onions." We always used to laugh about that file, but it was a way for those folks to feel good about themselves, but still keep their feet on the ground. Well, to start out this New Year on a positive note, here's an "orchid" for each and every one of you -- one of our new members from Richmond (a member of the Richmond Shag Club, and a very active Shagger) went out of his way

the other day to let me know that he thought we have one of the "friendliest" clubs around.

Lest we all get swelled heads, however, there is also an "onion" in our file -- a potential new member of the Club recently told me that "everybody knows" that the men in the Club were not interested in dancing with beginning Shaggers and that she had been put off by some of our male members being pretty vocal in their criticism of her inability to keep up with the step. Get the message, guys? Relax. Beginners and experienced Shaggers alike, we all go to the Juke Box for one reason -- to have a good time. It is important that the experienced Shaggers go out of their way to ask the newcomers to dance. But when you do, please remember to *encourage, not discourage*, them. When you ask a newcomer to dance, *don't assume* that they know how to Shag, *ask* them. Dance at *their* level. If all they know how to do is the basic, then do the basic, and throw in an underarm turn every once in a while. Don't try to get them into more complicated steps until they are ready. If they are having trouble or express discouragement, reassure them. For example, tell them that it wasn't easy for you either at first, but that if they will stick with it, come for our lessons and practice on their own a little bit during the week, it will all come together.

Above all, be patient. The Carolina Shag is not the easiest of dances, particularly for those who are not experienced dancers to begin with. It wasn't all that long ago that many of us (including yours truly) were beginners and struggling to "get it." The reason we kept coming back was because the experienced dancers, like Dee, Larry, Rick, Nick, and Debbie, were always willing to give up some of their time to work with us, encourage us, and reassure us.

Now it's our turn to pass it on. Every Wednesday night for the next twelve months there is something that each of you can do to help our Club continue to grow larger and stronger -- just keep on smilin', say "hi" and "thanks" to the newcomers for giving us a try, and give up some of your dance time to help and encourage a newcomer to get to know and love the Shag.

Keep on Shaggin' and I'll see you at the Juke Box!

THE ROVING SHAG REPORTER

I thought it was the Fourth of July! Glitter, glitz, blinking lights, music! Those of you shaggers who for various reasons or poor judgment missed the Christmas party at Pauline's home . . . well, you are forgiven, but you probably won't make a passing score on the following quiz. Match the corresponding names to the person or event below. *Give yourself five points for each correct identification. 25 correct answers - you're astute; 20 - fairly aware; 15 - naive; 10 - a good guesser; 5 - were you there?*

1. Lady in red and gold, who later became the lady in red.
2. Exhibited unequalled skill at taking guests' coats and carrying them upstairs. Hint: Big donator of door prizes.
3. Spent half the day in the kitchen (right where he should have been) preparing pork roast tenderloin and potato salad for us to enjoy.
4. Drank Auslese, a fine premium German wine.
5. Is in competition with Pat Parrott as the Queen of Twirl for the title King of Twirl. Hint: He wore Santa's red cummerbund and red bow tie.
6. His necktie had a little button sewn inside the tip. Hint: He won the 50-50 raffle.
7. She joined the Club and became a new member. Hint: Jose's guest.
8. Was out of town and unable to attend, but sent Christmas Wishes to everyone.
9. From New York was absent, and sorely missed. (No pun intended!)
10. Traveled from Richmond to celebrate with us. Hint: 100th member.
11. Was the guest of a new member of our Club from the Cape Fear Shag Club.
12. It is widely known that one of the guests has an ongoing secret love affair with his bicycle. Hint: New Club President.
13. Renowned DC Hand Dancers gave great Hand Dance demonstrations. Note: There were five.
14. Looked like a Christmas angel with her sweet smile.

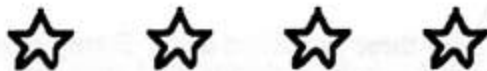
15. Showed up after a long absence and say they are coming back.
16. Wore outside decorations on his chest.
17. Success with no coercion. Hint: He did an outstanding job with the raffle. Cleans kitchens well, too.
18. Looking really good after a recent illness and hospitalization.
19. To him go our congratulations and best wishes on his engagement.
20. Provided the great music that we love so much.
21. Taught the "push belly" to several members. Hint: He's a good shagger.
22. Had the flashing camera.
23. Fell in love on the dance floor.
24. New club member who says she's shy but was seen dancing.
25. Made a mess. Note: Evidences of a good time.

Corresponding names:

John Belt, Dallas Campbell, John "Catfish" Kelly, Jerry Crews, Pauline Easby-Smith, Eddy Farmer, Joey Griffith, Janis Grimes, Dotty and Frank Hale, Donna Harrington, Libby Hendrix, Rick Hendrix, Dean Hipps, Donna Kris, Tom Lufkin, Jim Luther, Rick Mesmer and Bonnie, John Mullen, Jim Nanney, Debbie and Nick Nichols, Charlie Price Gary Salpini, Bill Smith, James Taylor, Lee Ann Woodcock and Jim, and Everyone.

A perfect score is not required to receive this Special Wish from your Roving Shag Reporter to all members of the Northern Virginia Shag Club:

As we SHAG into 1995, may we still see the Christmas lights brightly shining and hear the joyful sounds of Christmas music long after the Holidays are over. May we carry with us in our hearts the expression of Love and Peace and Christmas Cheer. May we hold onto the spirit of Christmas gift giving and receiving throughout the New Year. May we be filled with the excitement and wonder of Christmas all through the year.



FLASH!!

Brent Key -- Live, In Person -- at the Juke Box Cafe!

Want to see some real, live Myrtle Beach-style shaggin'? Well, you ought to come on down on a Wednesday night soon and watch our *favorite* junior competitor try out the new floor at the Juke Box Cafe! BRENT KEY has been in town on business with his dad, KEN. Ladies, if you ask him, he'll be glad to dance with you (!), or -- just stand back and watch, and see some of the best shaggin' anywhere!! (*BRENT is also the Winner of the Shag Rag Cutest Shagger Award for 1994.....*)

New Committees - By Charlie Price

We need to set up Committees for 1995. If you have an idea for a new Committee (or even a new idea for an old Committee) please let any Officer or Board Member know. If you are interested in chairing or serving on a Committee, please also let any Officer or Board Member know. If you miss us at the Juke Box, please give one of us a call -- the phone numbers are on the front page of your Newsletter. REMEMBER -- THIS IS YOUR CLUB.

Treasurer's Report - By Dave Rapson

The Northern Virginia Shag Club had \$865.81 in the treasury at the end of 1994. We paid for the first t-shirts, polo shirts, postage and funded the Christmas party; Additionally, we reimbursed Donna for some expenses approved by the Board. It's been a pleasure working with the Club, and I'm looking forward to dancing more. Thanks to all for your help.

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

Next month, our Club will co-sponsor the Second Annual Beach Music Dance, a benefit dance to be held on Saturday, February 25th, along with the ARC (formerly Association of Retarded Citizens) of Northern Virginia. Club members are invited to put on a Shag dance demonstration and, hopefully, we will teach a line dance as an additional feature for the event.

The Fabulous Waller Family will play for this event, to be held at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School in Alexandria. The music will be Soul and Motown R&B. Admission is \$25 per person (*remember it's a Benefit!*) which includes FREE beer, wine, soft drinks, snacks and hors d'oeuvres!! Watch for more details to follow.



IT DOESN'T SNOW AT THE BEACH!

ARE YOU GOING to the Mid-Winter Classic Party this month, January 13-15, at North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina? Several of our NVSC members will see you there!

Please Note: You must have an ACSC red dot sticker on your NVSC membership card to attend Mid-Winter Party. Get your red dot from our new Club President, Charlie Price.

New Members In November and December

Welcome, new members!!

NOVEMBER: Jeannette Bright, James Burke, Char DeWalt, Mary Jane German, Dewain Hammond, Betty Harrington, Karen Hiatt, Dean Hipps, Stephen Hoffman, Barry Holt, Craig Hutchinson, Marilyn Isler, Wayne Kaczmarkiewicz, John "Catfish" Kelly, John Khalil, Barry Kumar, Edward Magin, Jr., Robert Martin, John Mullen, Debra Mullins, Lily Orlando, Joan Salvadore, Gwen Sigda, Phillip Spicer, Raili Tate, Carole Vann, Dick White, Lee Ann Woodcock

DECEMBER: David Blanco, Kay Brown, Raymond Farris, Mark Goumas, Joey Griffith, Donna Kris, Raymond Hammill, James Magness, Rita Perrotti, Louise Pyles

Happy, Happy Birthday . . .



January Birthdays:

- 9 - John Belt
- Janis Grimes
- 12 - Mary Jane German
- 14 - Dick White
- 16 - Pauline Easby-Smith
- 21 - Libby Hendrix
- 23 - Charlie Price
- Kay Brown
- 29 - Ken Tyler
- Karen Rice

Special Thanks . . . - By Donna Harrington

Thanks to the generous contributions of our members, we were able to deliver twelve boxes of donated items to our charity, SOME. Thanks to everyone!!!

THE DANCERS ARE COMING!

Did you know . . .

that Shag -- for years the South's best kept secret -- is becoming known and appreciated not only nationally but internationally as well?

Until recent years, not too many people outside the southeast had ever heard of the Carolina Shag -- much less seen it performed. Since 1989, Charlie Womble and Jackie McGee have traveled around the country dancing the Shag in Swing competitions and dance conventions. From the first Swing competition they entered in Oklahoma City in 1989, people were impressed with this unfamiliar dance, and word began to spread about shagging to all parts of the country.

Charlie and Jackie have competed in the Classic Division of the U.S. Open Swing Dance Championship (the highest and most prestigious of the Swing competitions) since 1989, always finishing in the top four and placing second in 1992. As a result of their ability and their ambassadorship on behalf of shag, they have gained the respect of Swing dancers everywhere and have promoted Shag around the country. Interest in shagging has been so great that they have been asked to conduct Shag workshops and exhibitions in California, Texas, New York, Washington, D.C., Colorado, Arizona, Massachusetts, Virginia, Illinois, Oklahoma, Washington State, and Wisconsin.

With the interest generated in Shag among the Swing community, the time is right to display the southern hospitality for which we are so famous and invite shaggers and other Swing dancers from all over the country to a weekend of dancing, entertainment, and competition among the best Swing and Shag dancers anywhere.

S.O.S. is sponsoring just such a weekend beginning in 1995. Memorial weekend has been selected as the permanent time for the new S.O.S. Grand National Dance Championship. The event will be an annual convention and will be held in Atlanta, Georgia.

S.O.S. Board Chairman Bob Wood says, "This is the first event of this sort that S.O.S. is sponsoring. We believe that the Championship weekend will become one of the most fun weekends of the year and that the competition will become one of the most prestigious in the country."

The weekend promises to have something for everyone -- parties, entertainment, workshops, and competitions. All events will be held conveniently in one hotel. There will be hospitality rooms, workshops, competitions, and virtually non-stop

dancing for three fun-filled days. Plenty of music all weekend -- before, during, and after the competitions -- will be provided for general dancing by everyone. There will be DJ's from the Shag community for most of the general dancing periods.

There will be several competitions emphasizing Shag and team dancing. Categories will include:

Shag - age 21 and over

Junior Shag - under 21 years of age

Platinum Division - partners combined age of at least 99

Classic Division - all types of Swing dancing: West Coast, Lindy, Whip, etc.

Showcase - high production Swing dancing with lifts and other special moves

Cabaret - any type of dancing *except* Swing or shag; can include ballroom; special comedy dancing with one, two, three, or more dancers; special costuming can be used to make the dance more entertaining

Team Dancing - for synchronized dancing; two or more couples dance choreographed routines; great for Shag club sponsored entries!

Dancers will compete for trophies and substantial cash prizes.

There will be participation by various Shag clubs in the form of sponsoring dance teams and hosting hospitality functions. Vending space will be provided for individuals or club to display and sell dance-related items or to advertise their weekend dance functions.

The weekend will be packed with fun and excitement, so make your plans for the long Memorial weekend, May 26-28, and attend the first ever S.O.S. Grand National Dance Championship. You will get to do a lot of dancing, see some great competitions and other entertainment, and meet a lot of interesting people from all over the country who love to dance. It will be a little like S.O.S.-- club party weekends and high-level dance competitions all rolled into one.

If you would like more information about this new event or if you would like to volunteer as an individual or your Shag club would like to volunteer to assist in the staging of these activities, please contact Linda Bellflower at (404) 874-8890.

It promises to be a GRAND weekend!

Reprinted from the S.O.S. Carefree Times

ROAD TRIPS - By Gary Salpini

Members of the NVSC attended the OUTER BANKS SHAG CLUB's annual "Harvest Ball" on Saturday, November 26, at Nags Head, N.C.

The dance was held at the Comfort Inn at South Nags Head, and a great time was had by all. The Harvest Ball is held every year to benefit the Dare County food bank. Admission is \$5 and three cans of non-perishable foods. All proceeds go to the Dare County food bank.

The Comfort Inn !!! **DONATES** !!! the use of their ballroom for the function. What a great promotion for the OB ShagClub!

RECIPROCITY When in Nags Head, try to stay at the Comfort Inn. Let's support those who support us!

We saw friends from the Richmond Shag Club, Boogie on the Bay ShagClub, Virginia Beach ShagClub and, of course, the OBSC. A lot of them plan on visiting us at the new and improved Juke Box Cafe. We look forward to seeing them!

We heard many positive comments regarding our recent workshop with SONNY & JUDY CARVER. Many people indicated that they heard it was great and want to attend the next one!

Stay tuned for details on the next trip



Speaking of Beach Music ... FREE - Carolina Shag Lessons

The weather is getting a little bit nippy, but Shaggers are still Dancin' at the Beach (*in spirit at least!*), every Wed. 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!*

The Shagmaster Says:

- ENCOURAGE - *don't criticize* - new Shaggers
- Take **SMALLER STEPS**
- Plan to attend Mid-Winters, and/or Spring SOS!!
- Wear Old Spice, the Authentic Scent of Shaggers
- *Keep on shaggin'*

Shagger Profile -- Charlie Price

Occupation: Trial Attorney

Birthday: January 23rd

Hometown: Mount Holly, New Jersey

Marital Status: Once

Self-Portrait: Young at heart

Motto: "It ain't over 'til it's over"

Dream: To live in France

Inspiration: John F. Kennedy

Bad Habit: Many

Hobby: Long distance bicycle racing/riding

Luxury defined: A long, long downhill

Drink or Wine: German Beer

TV Program: "Homicide"

Books at bedside: None Died In Vain;
Black Echo

Last words: "You can't win a pissing contest with a skunk."

Member Music Survey! TOP FIFTY SHAG TUNES

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. Be sure to let our DJ Bert know what you want to hear! So far, our list includes:

Club Savoy
Honky Tonk
Little Brown Eyes
Remedy

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!!*

From the Editor

HAPPY NEW YEAR, Y'all! Will I see you in Myrtle Beach at Mid-Winter Party? I sure hope so!

Do you have some information to share? Want to write an article; a column; an ad; **Your Favorite Shag Tunes?** Call me, Call me, Call me!! This is YOUR Newsletter..... *See ya shaggin'.*



