



SHAG RAG

Shag Dancer Newsletter



Dedicated to the Preservation of the Carolina Shag and Beach Music

Vol. II, No. 3

Keep on Shaggin'

March 1995

From the President - By Charlie Price

Dear Members:

As I hope each of you is aware by now, as of Wednesday, February 15th, our Club moved to Deja Vu at 6710 Commerce Street in Springfield. (For those who don't know, Deja Vu is under the same roof, and on the other side of Blackie's, the well known country western dance location in Springfield.) So, from now on we will meet every Wednesday from 7:30-11 p.m., at DEJA VU!! Call them at 703-971-4200 if you need directions.

Change is never easy. I guess that all of us on the Board lost more than a little sleep over this, but we believe that it is important to keep Wednesdays as our Club's meeting night. Due to a management decision at the Juke Box Cafe, we simply could not do that and stay there.

Despite the cold and rainy weather, a really good crowd turned out for our first night at Deja Vu and, with Janis and Rick helping the DJ, we all had a great time. So, if you are reading this and you haven't been to Deja Vu yet -- "come on down!" There's a great wooden dance floor that's at least three times the size of our old floor, non-stop Beach Music, a good bar, and lots and lots of your Shaggin' friends.. I can't think of a better way to spend a Wednesday night, can you?

On another note, I want to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge and thank SHARON SALPINI for her dedicated work in heading up the Club's Membership Committee last year (in fact, I think Sharon was the "committee"). Week after week, without recognition or acknowledgment, she was always there at the Juke Box Cafe, tirelessly recruiting new members. So, the next time you see Sharon, take a minute to tell her that you appreciate her work. It is because of members like Sharon that your Club is what it is today.

KEEP ON SHAGGIN', AND SEE YOU AT DEJA VU!

ATTENTION SHAGGERS CORRECTION

DON'T BELIEVE
WHAT YOU READ LAST MONTH!
We're Still Dancing on Wednesday Nights,
But We Have Changed Our Location

NVSC HAS A NEW HOME

NVSC will not change our dance night to Tuesdays -- we will continue Shaggin' every Wednesday night, with FREE LESSONS at 7:30 p.m. -- at DEJA VU (at BLACKIE'S, 6710 Commerce Street in Springfield) starting February 15th. (From I-95, take Exit Franconia East; Left at first light on Commerce St., Blackie's is on the Right.)

DEJA VU will allow us to permanently hang our banner there as the Home of the Northern Virginia Shag Club -- and the larger space and wooden dance floor gives us an environment that will encourage the continued growth of our Club.

Our Beach Music play list is already long enough to last all night, and it will keep growing, too! There will be a \$2 per person cover charge at the door, which is not a lot to pay for so much fun..... SEE YOU THERE!!

NVSC Officers and Board Members

President	Charlie Price	790-0783
Vice Pres.	Donna Harrington	356-6035
Treasurer	John Belt	914-8477
Secretary	Patricia Parrott	591-4113
Board Mem.	Pauline Easby-Smith	759-4478
Board Mem.	Janis Grimes	536-7362
Board Mem.	Rick Hendrix	425-0006

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

The Roving Shag Reporter . . .

Neither rain nor sleet, snow nor cold of night can deter Northern Virginia Shaggers who want to dance. It was the first Shag night at our new location, Deja Vu, at Blackie's of Springfield.....

I watched as Rick somersaulted in. Larry Camp pole-vaulted in. Eddy Farmer broke down the door coming in. Janis flew in on a magic carpet. Donna narrowly escaped a five-car pile-up in the parking lot. Chris and Bill were too cool . . . not revealing the Drive From Hell they had just endured. Ron and Donna tripped over each other and fell to the floor trying to beat the other through the doorway. Big John's clothes were torn and tussled when he arrived, looking as if he'd been caught in a dog fight. Valerie tumbled in with hair a'muss. Gary and Sharon came, looking cool also, but showing no apparent signs of serious ill effect. Courageous Barry braved the weather -- weakened, but still dancin'. Howard beamed in via satellite from Stafford. Debbie and Nick arrived via Internet -- both looking marvelous; Nick didn't have time to shave. Jerry wasn't there (his son wouldn't give him permission to leave the house....). Fortunately, H.K. and A.J. were released in time to make it (from work, of course). John and Pauline waltzed in saying, "What's the fuss it's only mush!"

In his zeal, Charlie spun Pat, his dance partner, in the pivot so fast that her legs lifted off the floor. And the DJ kept the Beach Music going! In fact, the music reverberated through the walls. The walls wavered, but stayed upright. No serious harm done . . . only a strange look in the eyes of those who heard the beat and wandered in. Actually, it was those very same vibratory strains of wild and enchanting chords of music that propelled Steve Adams and Jim Raney to Deja Vu that night (or was it the full moon?).

To All Members . . .

General Membership Meeting March 13th, 7:30 p.m.

The first 1995 General Membership Meeting is scheduled for March 13th at 7:30 at THE ROTUNDA (Building #4), 8370 Greensboro Drive, McLean. Follow signs to Party Room B-1. *Did I hear "party"?* Yes, you did -- a Shag/Beach party. In other words, bring a beach towel or a beach chair to sit on. We'll provide the refreshments. Mark your calendar right now. Be sure to attend this beachy occasion, and get to know your Club Officers and Directors -- learn what they are planning for you!

General Membership Meeting March 13th, 7:30 p.m.

Shagger Profile -- Barbara Sutherland

Nickname: Joy

Occupation: Statistical Analyst

Birthday: August 9

Hometown: Alexandria, Virginia

Marital Status: Single Mom

Self-Portrait: Too smart for my own britches, dancing, sarcastic, sassy lady w/a dash of naughty who's slightly off center

Motto: You can't always get what you want, but you can try

Dream: Smart, nice, dancing man w/something frozen to drink on a warm island w/private beach and great music (tan optional)

Inspiration: Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers

Bad Habit: Extremely well educated, highly intelligent men

Hobby: Tang Soo Do; Golf; Investigating time/space continuum

Luxury defined: Silk, Satin, Mercedes, Diamonds w/a splash of Dom Perignon

Drink or Wine: José Cuervo Especial w/lime; Absolut Sea Breeze

TV Program: "Star Trek TNG"

Books at bedside: Tom Clancy, Robert Ludlum

Last words: T.T.F.N.; This could be the beginning of a perfect friendship

LOOK!

Shaggers Network

Place your ad here

Business card size - \$5 for one month/\$50 per year

Contact: John Belt, 703-914-8477
or Janis Grimes, 703-536-7362

Shaggers! Golfers!

Take a chance -- YOU CAN WIN!!! Two nights in Myrtle Beach, S.C., during SOS, April 28th and 29th -- ocean front room at the Sands Beach Club (sleeps six; plus kitchenette). Easy access to SOS functions, PLUS, two FREE SOS Admission cards -- a \$200+ value!

Raffle is sponsored by the Northern Virginia Shag Club. Tickets are \$2 each, 3 for \$5, or a book of 10 for \$15.

Purchase your tickets from any Board Member or contact JOHN BELT at 703-914-8477. We will draw the winning ticket at our April 5th dance night. You do not need to be present to win.

WIN AGAIN!! \$25 prize to the member selling the highest number of tickets.

NVSC T-SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE!

Anybody wanting polo shirts or t-shirts should contact LIBBY, 703-425-0006. Prices are reasonable -- polo w/your name on it - \$29; without a name - \$25. T-shirts - \$15. All shirts have our NVSC logo.

Reminder . . .

Please Contact Debra Williams, 703-451-4690, if you know of a Club Member who is ill. We'd like to send a card.

ABANDONED at NVSC Christmas Party Want To Come Home!

1. Coming Ware Casserole - 1 1/2 qt.
Blue Cornflower Design
2. Serving Pieces - Stainless: 2 large spoons, 1 fork

CALL: DONNA HARRINGTON, 703-356-6035

NOTICE!! All Members

Remember to contact Pat Parrott, 703-591-4113, if you do NOT want your name, phone number and address to appear on the Membership Roster. The Roster will be available to members soon. There will be a slight charge to cover printing expenses.

WORKSHOP NEWS - By Charlie Price

Saturday, Feb. 11th, saw a fabulous WORKSHOP given at the Juke Box Cafe by LARRY and SHIRLEY JONES of the Richmond Shag Club. We always knew they were great dancers, and now we know they are also great teachers. No wonder there are so many good Shaggers in the Richmond Club! Larry and Shirley went over the Basics -- which we all need to brush up on from time to time -- and then taught some male leads, including a new (at least for us) version of the pivot, starting from crossed hands to an over-the-head drape into the pivot, with a little move at the end that words can't describe. Suffice it to say, it is a great move. We all had a great time, teachers and students alike; and, speaking at least for myself, I can't wait for Larry and Shirley to come back. MANY THANKS also to RICK HENDRIX for arranging this very productive workshop!!

Later that night, Larry and Shirley and several of our fellow Club members partied into the wee hours at Checkers Lounge. We brought our own Beach Music, took over the floor, and dance, dance, danced until closing time.

FYI, LARRY and SHIRLEY will compete in the National Shag Competitions in Myrtle Beach this month. We wish them all the best, and some of us hope to be there cheering for them.

Speaking of Parties . . .

The very next night (Sunday), several of our indefatigable members piled into John's van and headed for Richmond to sell some of our Raffle tickets, and then boogie-walked over to the nearby Holiday Inn Ballroom (upstairs from Visions Lounge) to Shag and party the night away listening to Band of Oz. John, Pauline, Janis, Charlie, Jim, Eddy and Valerie saw lots of friends from the Richmond Shag Club, and we had a ball! Some of us lost our hearing for awhile, but we all arrived back home tired, but with happy feet. What a weekend!

This month, the legendary BILL DEAL will play there on Sunday, March 12th; and, on April 9th, plan on seeing and dancing to THE EMBERS!! The charge for these dances is just \$5 per person. SEE YOU THERE!

New Members in February

Welcome, new members!! Bonnie Niblack, Harvey Niblack, Kerry Smith, Fred Suthard.

Member Music Survey!



TOP 50 SHAG TUNES

HERE IT IS -- NVSC's Top 50 Shag Tunes for 1994!

A Mess of Blues - Delbert McClinton
A Love Worth Waiting For - Shakin Stevens
American Hearts - Billy Ocean
Baby Likes to Rock It - The Tractors
Big Top Hat - Stephen Burton
Boppin' Shoes - The Boogie Men
Brand New Me - Boys Town Gang
Club Savoy - Rockin' Louie
Cross My Heart - Johnny Walker
Darlene - Big Al Downing
Drinkin' Wine - Jerry Lee Lewis
Farther Up The Road - The Boss Man
Got To Get You Off My Mind - Amos Garrett
Hard Hearted Woman - Eddie Burns
Hold Back The Night - KWS Band
Home Grown Rocker - Billy Peck
Honky Tonk - Ed Vadas' Fabulous Heavyweights
I'll See It Through - Jimmy McCracklin
I'm Glad I Fell In Love - O. C. Smith
I'm In Love With You - Bobby Patterson
I'm In Love With You, Baby - Buddy Cypress
I'm So Into You - Edwin Starr
It Started With a Kiss - Hot Chocolate
Just Another Lonely Night - O'Jays
Keep On Sitting On It - Band of Oz
Kissing in the Back Row - The Drifters
Let It Be - Bette Watts
Lil' Brown Eyes - Theodis Ealey
Lucky Charm - Stray Catz
Miss Grace - Tymes
More Than A Minute - Billy Always
One Step Ahead - Long John Baldry
Real Good Lover - The Boss Man
Remedy - The Band
Rock Awhile - The Lamont Cranston Band
Satellite Dish - Brent Sam Parkin
She Blew A Good Thing - The Poets
Shout - Joe Turner
Shut Your Mouth - B.B. King
So Long - Big Joe Duskin
Somebody - Pete Johnson
Stagger Lee - Lloyd Price
Steppin' Up In Class - Billy Price
Take It Uptown - Bill Champlin
The Drifter - Roger Howse
There's Got To Be A Way - Chuck Willis
Tom Cat Prowl
Wrong Too Long - Matilda Jones
You Know It's True - Ricky Jones
You Ought To Know Better - Lloyd Jones Snuggle

Thanks to all who participated and sent in their FAVORITE SHAG TUNES!!

Speaking of Beach Music ...



FREE - Carolina Shag Lessons

The weather has been downright depressing, but Shaggers are still Dancin' at the Beach (*in spirit at least!*), every Wednesday night at DEJA VU, 6710 Commerce St. in Springfield.

FREE SHAG LESSONS - DEJA VU at 7:30 sharp every Wed. night. Our members do a great 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!*

Happy, Happy Birthday ...



March Birthdays:

2 - Raymond Farris
3 - Rick Hendrix
4 - Howard Christie
5 - Fran Harris
8 - Christina Pax
9 - Mark Goumas
13 - Jan Piotrowski
15 - John Mullen
19 - Sandy Davis
22 - Stephen Hoffman
27 - H. David Jones, Jr.
30 - Patricia Jordan

SHAG VIDEO TAPES

To order copies of Shag Competitions, and other videos, call or write:

Stages Video Productions
917 Broadway Extension
Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29577
803-626-7466

TO ATTEND SOS, YOU NEED THIS:

S.O.S. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Send your Name, Address, Age, Phone # and
\$35.00 - Renewal or New Member
Mail to:
SOS, POB 4688, Columbia, SC 29204

SHAG MUSIC AND ITS ICONS Godfather of R&B: Johnny Otis By Steve Booth

Somewhere in Southern California there is a semi-retired gentleman of Greek descent who dabbles in the organic food industry, radio and occasionally, music. He is 73 and his name is Johnny Veliotis. Raised in Berkeley, he lived among black folks and absorbed much of their culture, of course music being at the fore-front. He played drums in Swing bands and toured the Southwest. From the late 30's through 1960,



JOHNNY OTIS

Robins, who evolved into the Coasters. Recording contracts soon followed with Modern and Savoy records starting in 1949. At this juncture, Otis's influence on R&B became immeasurable. His early discoveries included no less than Etta James and Little Esther Phillips. The string of hits on Savoy with this growing stable of stars led to the Johnny Otis

with his name Anglicized to Johnny Otis, he was the West Coast mover and shaker for the exploding Rhythm & Blues phenomenon. Otis's talents covered every facet of the music industry: producer, composer (*Roll With Me, Henry* 1954; *Every Beat Of My Heart* 1961), band leader. On top of that, Otis is a drummer, pianist, vibraphonist and singer.

Somewhere in Southern California there is a semi-retired gentleman of Greek descent ... He is 73 and his name is Johnny Veliotis.

Like the average reader, I had never heard of Johnny Otis (although I had heard of Shuggie Otis, his son, a guitarist of some note in my late 60's musician days) until I started researching R&B/Shag music history. This man's resumé is simply astounding. His orchestra recorded the original *Harlem Nocturne* in 1945. As Swing orchestras faded in the late 40's, Otis anticipated the change with the formation of a small, Louis Jordan-type combo to be the house band in his club "The Barrel House" in Watts. The talent contests at this club were legendary, with discoveries such as Mel Walker and the

Caravan. Well, you ask, What does this have to do with Shagging and our lifestyle?

In a recent interview with Gene Laughter, S.O.S. founder and certified early fifties O.D. Lifeguard/Beach Bum ... he made a statement that "music was the glue that held the O.D./Beach lifestyle together".

Just about everything. In a recent interview with Gene Laughter, S.O.S. founder and certified early fifties O.D. Lifeguard/Beach Bum, I asked Gene about his favorite artists of the era. He prefaced the list with the statement that "music was the glue that held the O.D./Beach lifestyle together". At the top of his fave list was Wynonie Harris, whose 1948 (!) hit (written by Roy Brown) *Good Rockin' Tonight* started the "Rock 'N' Roll" double entendre craze in early R&B. Not only can *Good Rockin' Tonight* still be heard (in the Solomon Burke version) at any Shag Throwdown, but Wynonie Harris was one of the early stars of Otis's *Caravan* show. But the list of superstars on the rise in the early 50's goes on: Willi Mae "Big Mama"

Thornton (*Hound Dog, Let Your Tears Fall, Baby*), Jackie Wilson, Hank Ballard, Johnny Ace, Charles Brown (*Please Come Home For Christmas* - the greatest Christmas R&B Tune). Otis's inclusion of these legends on his shows either enhanced their stardom or created their stardom through resulting recording contracts. The proliferation of authentic R&B outside of the great Southeast in the mid-50's is in part due to talents such as Johnny Otis, who knew the "real goods" when he heard it. Otis, himself, scored massively in 1958 with *Willie And The Hand Jive*, with its pounding, reverbed "Bo Diddley" beat of West African derivation. Next time you're on the dance floor pivoting to Etta James, Boogie Walking to *Lonely Teardrops* or Belly Rolling to *Open Up The Back Door*, thank Johnny Otis for his part in creating Rhythm & Blues - and our lifestyle.

Johnny Otis still has a radio show and recorded as recently as 1981.

Reprinted with permission by the author, Richmond Shag Club

Treasurer's Report - By John Belt

Thanks to each of you -- your support for our Workshop and our 50-50 Drawings has increased our treasury to \$1,275.27, with no debts outstanding. Ideas for fundraising, anyone? Contact John - 703-914-8477.

AND THE WINNER IS ...

The 50-50 Drawing will be held the FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

RUTH RAPSON had the winning #3588054 at the 50-50 Drawing for February.. Congratulations, Ruth!!

The Shagmaster Says:

- Why isn't phonetic spelled the way it sounds?
- Why do we drive on parkways & park on driveways?
- If a cow laughed, would milk come out her nose?
- Keep Having FUN
- Keep on Shaggin'



From the Editor

Do you have some information to share? Want to write an article; a column; an ad; your Shagger Profile? Well, Call me, Call me, Call me!! Remember ... This is YOUR Newsletter..... See ya Shaggin'.

♥XOX♥XOX♥XOX

CONGRATULATIONS, JOAN & DALLAS

DALLAS CAMPBELL and JOAN McKINNEY were married on December 19th, after 23 years of togetherness. All the Best Wishes for Continued Love and Happiness to you !!!

1994 Event Planning Calendar 1995

© 1994 by *The Carefree Times*. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. Reproduction in part or whole without written permission from S.O.S., P.O. Box 4688, Columbia, SC 29204 or the Editor, Michael Payne, 7528 Arlington Expressway #806, Jacksonville, FL 32211 is strictly prohibited.

* REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION *

DECEMBER 1994 1-4 ShagAtlanta Christmas Party 2-3 SPA/CSA Banquet, N. Myrtle Beach 3 JBBA Anniversary Party, Jax, FL 25-31 Lindy in Buenos Aires 26-1 Winter Dance Week, WA state 29-1 Fat Harold's New Year's Eve Party 29-5 Swing Cruise (800) 521-2346 30-31 Outer Banks New Year's Eve Party 30-2 Nat'l New Year's Eve Contest, Dallas 31 JBBA New Year's Eve Party, Jax, FL	JANUARY 1995 1 JBBA Pig Roast, K/C Hall, Jax, FL 8-15 D. McClinton Cruise (800) Delbert 13-15 Mid-Winter Classic, N. Myrtle Beach 13-15 Swing Expo '95, Las Vegas, NV 13-20 Ultimate Blues Cruise 3 14-16 Matinee Swing, Las Vegas, NV 20-21 Shag Nat'l Preliminaries, Myrtle Bch. 27-29 Winter Blues Bash, Atlantic Bch., NC 27-29 Charity Mixed Dbls., Greensboro 27-29 Monterey Swingfest, CA 29-5 Cruise to Mexico (800) 521-2346	FEBRUARY 1995 3-5 Spring Fling, Daytona Beach, FL 3-5 Foothills Winter Boogie, Lk. Hickory 4-5 Washington State Dance Contest 10-12 Winter Shag Blast, Atlantic Bch., NC 17-19 Lake Norman Chicken Pickin' 17-19 Winter Warmup, Memphis, TN 17-19 Capital Swing Conv., Sacramento 24-26 ACSC Winter Workshop, Twisters
MARCH 1995 4-5 DJ Throwdown IV, N. Myrtle Beach 9-11 Shag Nationals, Myrtle Beach 17-19 CSRA Shag Classic, Augusta, GA 17-19 Shaggin' Super Scramble, Dillon 17-19 Shag-A-Rama, Birmingham, AL 19-21 SOB, Panama City, FL	APRIL 1995 1 13th Spring Fling, Rock Hill, SC 1-2 Charity Dance & Golf, Erwin, NC 4-8 NBA Spring Convention, FBI 4-8 Back to the Beach 7-9 American Swing Champ'ships, NY 13-16 30th Anniversary Convention, Seattle 14-16 Paradise Swing Champ'ships, Waikiki 14-16 Classic '95, Ft. Worth, TX 21-23 So. Calif. Swing Championships 21-30 S.O.S. Spring Safari, N. Myrtle Beach 23-30 Swing Cruise (800) 537-8937	MAY 1995 2-9 Lindy in Stockholm 11-14 Golden Oldies, Fat Harold's, NMB 12-14 Spring Blast '95, Eden, NC 19-21 Magic Maydays, Portsmouth, VA 19-20 SOB, Birmingham, AL 19-21 SOB, Panama City, FL 19-21 Shaggers Holiday, Folly Bch., SC 21 Electric Storm '95, Anderson, SC 26-28 SOS Grand Nationals, Atlanta, GA 26-28 '95 Texas Regionals, Dallas 26-29 Spring Fling, San Diego, CA
JUNE 1995 3 Boogie to Boone, NC 10 Summer Sizzle, Smithfield, NC 10 June Jivin' Jam, Lancaster, SC 13-18 Boogie on the Riverwalk X, Jacksonville, FL 15-18 St. Louis Swing Invitational 16-18 Great American Jack 'n Jill 17 Shag Blast, Goldsboro, NC 29-2 Summer Sizzler, Nashville, TN	JULY 1995 9-16 Gary Bass Cruise 14-15 Cool Me Out, Florence, SC 14-15 Sandkicker, Morgantown, NC 14-16 ACSC Summer Workshop, Fayettev'l 21-23 Mountain Boogie, Asheville, NC 22-23 Class Blast, Camden, SC 26-30 Boppin' on Beale St., Memphis 28-30 Boogie in the Pines, S. Pines, NC	AUGUST 1995 3-6 Southern Exposure, Tampa, FL 5 Summer Blast, Burlington, NC 11-13 Down East Boogie, Greenville, NC 11-13 Olympic City Jam, Atlanta, GA 18-20 Geechee Blast, Charleston, SC 18-20 Geechee Reject Party, Statesville 25-27 Shag Blast, New Bern, NC
SEPTEMBER 1995 TBA Bay Swingers, San Francisco, CA TBA Dallas D.A.N.C.E. TBA Derby City Anniversary TBA Sundance Swing Festival TBA Thirtysomething Pre-S.O.S. TBA Michigan SD Convention, Flint TBA SOS Fall Migration, N. Myrtle Beach TBA Swing Cruise (800) 521-2346 TBA Lindy 'n London trip TBA World Swing Champ., Anaheim TBA Shag Attack, N. Myrtle Beach	OCTOBER 1995 TBA Nashville Swing Anniversary TBA Fall Flashback, Charlotte TBA Riverfest, Wilmington, NC TBA Boogie By the Bay, Tampa, FL TBA Shag Attack, N. Myrtle Beach TBA VA Swing Champ'ships, Falls Church TBA Autumn in the Rockies, Denver TBA Fall Boogie Woogie, Eden, NC TBA Swing Hall of Fame Awards TBA Shag Day II, Charleston	NOVEMBER 1995 9-12 Move Across River, Cincinnati, OH TBA Orange Squeeze, Daytona Bch., FL TBA Fall Cyclone, Twisters TBA Columbia Invitational, SC TBA PSA Shaggin' Gobbler TBA Hall of Fame Inductions, N. Myrtle Bch TBA Texas State Championships, Dallas TBA JBBA Sock Hop for Charity, Jax, FL TBA Turkey Blast, Winston-Sal'm, NC TBA Throwdown in Pines, S.Pines, NC TBA Low Country Boil, Savannah

NOTE:

Events listed as TBA occurred in that month this year, but we have no dates as yet for 1995 at press time.