



SHAG RAG

Shag Dancer Newsletter



Dedicated to the Preservation of the Carolina Shag and Beach Music

Vol. II, No. 4

Keep on Shaggin'

April 1995

From the President - By Charlie Price

On Saturday, February 25, Janis, John and I attended the Winter Workshop for our national association -- the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs (ACSC) -- in Mooresville, NC, where we learned quite a few things of interest to our Club.

First, the numbers, which are somewhat mind boggling in and of themselves..... As of this meeting there are more than 100 Clubs in the ACSC with more than 15,000 (yes, that's not a typo--more than 15,000 members!) In addition:

SOS Chairman Bob Wood spoke in defense of the increase in the SOS membership fee from \$25 to \$35 effective the first of this year. This fee covers 23 days(!) of SOS partying (Mid-Winter Party, Spring Safari and Fall Migration), and is approximately the same as the cost of most Shag club weekends. Moreover, most of the additional revenues raised by this increase will come back to the ACSC.

Apparently some disgruntled folks have talked about a "boycott" of Spring SOS because of the increase, saying they will just pay the (old) \$5 door charge and stay in one club all day long. I suspect that this is all "news" to our Club members, but if you know someone who plans to try this, be advised that this year every major club owner will be charging \$10 per head every time you come through the door -- and only \$5 of that \$10 will be remitted to SOS. So, don't "cut off your nose to spite your face." SOS is owned by ACSC and virtually all of the profits generated by SOS come back to ACSC and, indirectly, to you as a member of an ACSC club.

As of February, and for the first time, all the major Carolina Shag associations -- the local Shag Clubs, the Beach Shaggers Hall of Fame Foundation, the Competitive Shaggers Assn., the Association of Beach & Shag Club DJs, and the Shag Preservation Assn. (the Myrtle Beach Club owners) -- are finally united under a common front -- ACSC! This can only mean bigger and better things for us, and this dance and lifestyle that we all love!

Keep on Shaggin', and see you at Deja Vu!

ATTENTION SHAGGERS

The North Carolina Alumni Association has invited NVSC members to attend their Annual Springtime in April Beach Blast on Saturday, April 15th, 8-11:30 p.m. This is a huge organization, and a LARGE turn-out is expected locally. Place - Trophy Room of the St. Alban's School, Wisconsin & Massachusetts Ave., N.W., off Garfield St. Dress is casual. Cost is \$10 per person. The DJ will play Beach Music... So, put on your Shaggin' shoes and let's go!

NVSC members have been invited to put on a Shag demonstration for those in attendance. This is a wonderful opportunity to publicize our Club and hopefully increase our membership with homesick Shaggers w/ho have been looking for a place to dance! RSVP before April 6th. Send your name, address, phone # and a \$10 check to: Washington DC Carolina Club, 229 N. Henry St., Alex., VA 22314-2400; info call 703-548-5423. Mention your NVSC membership. This will be FUN -- Plan to go and SUPPORT YOUR CLUB!

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--on the left side of BLACKIE's. Call 703-971-4200 for directions.

FREE SHAG LESSONS - DEJA VU at 7:30 sharp every Wed. night. Beginner and intermediate steps are taught by NVSC members. Take advantage of this FREE opportunity to learn to Shag, the Carolina way!!

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 . . .

This reporter cruised into Myrtle Beach on March 10th to attend the National Shag Dance Championships. Although Charlie Womble and Jackie McGee had withdrawn from the competition a couple of weeks earlier, there were many other fabulous dancers displaying their skills and various styles.

The Junior Shaggers continued to amaze their elders with highly advanced patterns and the athletic energy that youth provides. The overall quality of the competitors' dancing from the Junior through the Master Divisions was superb, and there were several innovative and poignant moments on Studebaker's dance floor, captured for posterity by Chuck Stokes of Stages Video. Equally remarkable was the action at Duck's, where the competitors danced in a nonscripted context following Friday night's Preliminaries. "Mesmerizing" is the word that most accurately describes the impact of watching the country's best Shaggers dancing for pure enjoyment. (Even the Juniors were smiling!)

Many thanks go to Billy and Karen and their friends from the Virginia Beach Shag Club who offered hospitality and some instruction to this lone and bedazzled Shagger from the NVSC,

Maybe next year we can send a larger representative contingent to this inspirational celebration of the Carolina Shag.

1995 Shell Awards

VOTE * VOTE * VOTE

There is a new award which has been created to recognize individuals, groups, clubs and events in the Shag Community. There are four categories; and nominations are based on popularity -- individual and/or group appeal, and dedication to the preservation of the Shag or other forms of dancing embraced by member clubs of the ACSC.

Virginia Beach Shag Club (our Club's sponsor into the ACSC) is one of four clubs nominated for having the Best Weekend Party(!) out of over ninety clubs in the ACSC. The winners will be decided by popular vote from club members of the ACSC (*that includes us!* -- mail-in Official Ballots will be handed out at our Wed. Shag nights. Be sure to get one!). Participate -- send in your vote before May 5th. Winners will be announced at the SOS Grand National Championship in Atlanta, GA on May 28th. *Do Virginians know how to party, party? You bet we do!*

Shaggers! Golfers!

TWO FREE NIGHTS IN MYRTLE BEACH

LAST CHANCE!!!

DRAWING ON WED., APRIL 5th

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.

ACSC and The Carolina Shag Lifestyle ...

The Association of Carolina Shag Clubs is an organization that allows Presidents of Shag Clubs to come together so that they can share ideas and exchange information . . . to promote the ideals and lifestyle of the Carolina Shag.

You may be asking, "What lifestyle? I thought that the Carolina Shag was a *dance!*" You are correct. Carolina Shag is a dance, but it is also much more than that!

The Carolina Shag is a vehicle by which people come together to have a good time. It is caring about what happens to those around us. It is a *gentle spirit* that has culminated from years of wonderful music, great people, and the laid back atmosphere of the Beach.

We are privileged to be a part of an extended family that reaches far beyond our local Shag Club. Just imagine wandering into a lounge in a strange city and you hear "our" music playing. Right about then, someone with a big smile on their face approaches you and says, "Welcome!" and you find out that you have stumbled upon a Shag Club's party night. When they find out that you are part of a Shag Club "back home," you are instantly made to feel as if you were the Prodigal Son (or Daughter) that has been lost and has just come home! "It can't get no better than this, y'all."
Reprinted from the Richmond Shag Club's Newsletter

MEDICAL ALERT: Peculiar Syndrome Spreads to D.C. -- by Patricia Parrott

Modern medical scientists are closely monitoring peculiar occurrences in the Washington, D.C. area around Springfield, VA, extending to LaPlata, MD, with a couple of cases identified in NJ and NY. These are the first known cases of a seizure-like attack affecting humans in these locations, although large concentrations of people in the southeastern coastal states have suffered the attacks for many years. The disease is pervasive among members of the Northern Virginia Shag Club, in particular.

Medical science has identified *Beach/Shag music* as a common linking factor to humans, but they are unable to determine how it traverses time and space to invade the human body of male and female, or to explain the involuntary compulsive compelling collective action that follows the invasion. Farm animals and pets do not appear to be affected.

At the precise moment that the rhythmic cadence of the component identified as Beach/Shag music begins, the syncopation enters the human body in the area of the ear and activates the nervous system, which triggers a pulsation. This causes heart acceleration that sends electromagnetic charges down the meridians to the feet. The feet flip, flop and flail. The knees follow feet. The fanny follows knees. The mind shuts down. The human body is impelled to twitch until the musical quavering stops. Sometimes there's extreme energetic animation of the right arm and hand. The syndrome slowly invades the bones, which causes the pathetic human to react increasingly more impassioned as stages advance. The scientific world has yet to discover whether the negative effect of the attack at this point is *greater* upon the human body *or* upon the music. Scientists have labeled the phenomenon "*Shaggon-Shagger*."

People of D.C. face no serious threat at the present time. Authorities will continue close scrutiny of the *Shaggon-Shagger* disease. As long as Northern Virginia Shag Club members are mindful of the risks involved, and the body has not been tattooed, they may continue to SHAG ON! SHAGGERS!

TO ATTEND SOS in MYRTLE BEACH 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 -- The Book!!

A book has been put together about the history, the music and the life of the dance that we all love so much. It's a hard bound, coffee table quality book with pictures, biographies and general nostalgia about the dance, how it began, its evolution -- and the near death and resurrection of the Shag.

What other dance and lifestyle has a Movie ("we survived it...") and a Book written about it? The price of this book is \$48.69, and as of this date, only 148 out of 15,000 Shaggers have placed their orders. ?? What is wrong with this picture? Until they get 400 confirmed orders, this priceless artifact cannot be printed. The article and ad for SHAG is included in this newsletter. As one of the first 148, I'm looking forward to reading this book cover-to-cover. How about you? *Excerpts reprinted from the Richmond Shag Club's newsletter*

Road Trips With Gypsies . . . By H. K. Lee

Sunday, March 12th Richmond Shag Club's Pre-St. Patrick's Day Party featured "Bill Deal and Fat Ammon's Band." Our fearless leader, President Pompey CHARLIE Price, herded up his small band of dance-merry persons (Jubilant JANIS Grimes; Pedigreed PAT Parrott; and Honorable H.K. Lee) and ventured the two-hour trek down to the Holiday Inn on Midlothian Turnpike, where we saw friends from the Richmond Shag Club, including one of our new members, Shagman SID Strawderman. Although the jam-packed ballroom's large dance floor was crowded, the four shaggateers managed to mingle and demonstrate our Northern Virginia interpretation. On the way home, Charlie read aloud to the group (*from another RAG -- something about a gorilla giving birth to a human baby...*) -- but, the best story of the evening was to follow. In a strange twist of events, H.K. discovered that an old friend Janis had recently introduced him to was, in fact, *the brother of one of his own best friends!!* (*What does this mean?*)

Speaking of Road Trips, our member from South Jersey, ED MAGIN, drove down here in January (in that WEATHER!) and again last month just to dance and party with us. (Now, THAT is a Shagger.....)

The previous weekend, Ed was driving two hours each way, up and down the road, back and forth three times, to a swing dance weekend, (where he won First Place in the Jack & Jill competition, by the way!!). (*At least now we know we're not the only ones out driving up and down the highway wanting to dance!*) Well, it proves my theory . . . Determined Shaggers Will Find A Way -- Back to the People, the Music, the Dancing..... (*We really are like a band of Gypsies, aren't we?*)

Shorty's Excellent Adventure -- By Shorty George

"Hey, y'all!" I just got back from a party, party, party, and I can't wait to let you in on the news! After a long -- but, I understand, easy -- drive, DONNA, PAULINE, JOHN, JANIS and CHARLIE arrived on Friday, February 23, to start their excellent adventure at the "Winter Whirlwind" hosted by Twister's Shag Club of Cornelius, NC. And on Saturday, EDDY showed up!

Over the next couple of days, EVERYONE HAD AN ABSOLUTE, UNADULTERATED, U.S.D.A. CERTIFIED BLAST! That dance floor was one of the largest, unobstructed wood floors ol' Shorty has ever seen -- a ROLLER SKATING RINK, believe it or not -- with a floor area at least 175 by 80 feet and a lofty, arched ceiling at least 30 to 40 feet high at its center! Just picture it! That big, beautiful wood floor, with at least 700 to 800 Shaggers who knocked our socks off with their footwork (particularly that blonde from Martinsville.....). The music from DJs Judy Collins and Sid Pruitt, and the Shaggers filled that space on Friday and Saturday nights with an energy that just wrapped you up and shook you loose! You couldn't stand still even if you wanted to, and I'm here to tell you that nobody, but NOBODY, wanted to! Once the music warmed you up, your feet had a mind of their own and just started moving to the beat! (Or, was it those jello/vodka shooters courtesy of SUE and RALPH HART from the Roanoke Valley Shag Club? Most excellent!)

On Saturday afternoon, Janis managed to slip out of the ACSC meeting and learned a new mirror step that had been taught at the workshop by pro dancers GENE and KATHY BENFIELD -- the "Number One" -- which she shared willingly at every opportunity. And, as if all this excellence wasn't excellent enough, our hosts also provided continuous shuttle service from the motel to the dance hall, midnight snack on Friday, an "all you can eat" barbecue/fried chicken dinner on Saturday night, and a humongous brunch on Sunday morning -- PLUS, for those of us attuned to the finer things in life, or some of us (whose names we won't get into right now) who are just downright cheap -- continuous (yes, you heard me right!) continuous free pours all weekend! All this for \$30! Now, if that isn't excellent, I don't know what is!

THANK YOU TWISTER'S SHAG CLUB for a most excellent party, you will definitely see us again! (Shorty also would like to personally thank LARRY and SHIRLEY JONES from the Richmond Shag Club for teaching him that over-arm pivot followed by a side pass at NVSC's last workshop. I lived off that move for three days!!)

Shorty recommends most highly that every Shagger who can walk, run or crawl should block out their calendar for the 3rd-5th of this coming November for Twister's Shag Club's "Fall Cyclone V" which, I have been personally assured, will be every bit as excellent as their "Winter Whirlwind!" Trust me on this one -- you won't regret it. I'll bet you anything that, just like Lay's potato chips, once you try a "Whirlwind" or a "Cyclone," there is no way you'll be able to stop at "just one!"

Keep on walkin' that walk, and talkin' that talk! -- S.G.

Shagger Profile -- Edward H. Magin, Jr.

Nickname: The Lone Shagger of So Je (self-assigned)

Occupation: Electrical Estimator (but am standing at a crossroads)

Birthday: November 13

Hometown: Pitman, New Jersey

Marital Status: Single

Self-Portrait: A seeker of truth

Motto: Love seeks nothing in return

Dream: To be self-employed, controlling my own destiny

Inspiration: Christ, Roy Masters

Bad Habit: Thinking about dancing when my mind should be on other things

Hobby: Singing & writing songs; playing guitar, piano, tennis & volleyball; swing dancing (all forms), backpacking and cooking

Luxury defined: A big dance floor

Favorite Dance Tune: The Way She Shakes That Thing; also Wee Baby Blues

Drink or Wine: Seltzer w/a twist; coffee w/brandy

TV Program: Doctor Who, any Star Trek, Northern Exposure

Books at bedside: Bible, William Bennett's "The Book of Virtues"

Last words: "See ya next time I look at ya!"

LOOK!

Shaggers Network

Place your ad here

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

Contact: John Belt, 703-914-8477

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.

Happy, Happy Birthday ... 

April Birthdays:

- 2 - Dallas Campbell
- 2 - Doreen Martin
- 6 - Dewain Hammond
- 22 - Rita Perrotti
- 27 - Bonnie Torguson
- 25 - Ellen Werther



SOS Spring Safari

April 21-30 in North Myrtle Beach, S.C.

It's that time of year again, Shaggers --time to head for Spring Safari at N. Myrtle Beach, S.C., for ten full days of sun, fun, beach, party party, and dance, dance, dance as long as your feet and legs hold up!

For those of you who have not yet gone to S.O.S., it is the best time you could ever imagine. Where else would you find 10,000 people dancing, partying and generally having a ball, in one place, at one time -- and all because of a regional dance called the Shag? That's right -- for ten days each spring and fall, Shaggers from all over the country flock back to Ocean Drive in North Myrtle Beach to celebrate and perpetuate the best party in the world -- S.O.S.

The Association of Carolina Shag Clubs hosts these events by the Society of Strangers (S.O.S.), named after the 35-mile stretch of beach along the South Carolina coast called the Grand Strand. Shag DJs keep the beach music euphoria going from 10 a.m. until way after midnight (*I've heard it goes on until 2 or 3 a.m. each night, but have not yet lasted that long, myself*).

You will need an S.O.S. pass (cost \$35) to be able to go back and forth between all the clubs and lounges (last year we counted twelve (12!!) dance floors within a few block radius!). It is well worth the cost, believe it.

Come join the party at S.O.S. in N. Myrtle Beach -- Shag Heaven, a dancer's paradise.

ARC/NOVA Shag Club Beach Dance A Success! by H. K. Lee

On Feb. 25 at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, the co-sponsored ARC (Association for Retarded Citizens) of Northern Virginia and our very own Northern Virginia Shag Club Annual Beach Dance raised over \$4,000! GARY and DAVE claim the "fabulous" Waller Family is one of the best performing bands they have ever heard . . . let alone dance to (or rather Shag!). An abundance of beer, wine and food certainly enhanced the evening, too! Although PAT PARROTT contributed but couldn't make it due to other last minute commitments, and VALERIE SWIGER had to leave early, GARY & SHARON SALPINI, DAVE & RUTH RAPSON, and H.K. LEE & DEBBIE HEWITT, his lady from Virginia Beach, shagged to the very end. In fact, the six-some caught the final karaoke performances at a local hang-out until the wee hours of the night (or was it morning!).

Speaking of Parties . . .

On Sunday evening, April 9th, THE EMBERS will perform at the Richmond Holiday Inn (home of Visions Lounge)! The charge for this dance is just \$5 per person. Call around to see who's going -- we're trying to get a caravan of people together. SEE YOU THERE!

NOTICE!! All Members NVSC Video Library is Open SHAG VIDEOS NOW AVAILABLE

Instructional Shag videos are now available on LOAN to members only wanting to brush up on their Shag steps. The Club will loan you a video for up to two weeks, FREE OF CHARGE. There will be a refundable \$10 deposit for each tape borrowed from our Instructional Video Library.

By the way, SONNY & JUDY CARVER have >>DONATED<< several of their own instructional videos, including line dances, to us. MANY, MANY THANKS to you both, SONNY & JUDY!!!

New Members in March

Welcome, new members!! Jean Griffis, Marcus LaMar, Doug Levitas, Doreen Martin, Alvina Mayer, Randy Mitchell, Ron Toms, and Fred Whitman.

