



SHAG RAG

Shag Dancer Newsletter



Dedicated to the Preservation of the Carolina Shag and Beach Music

Vol. II, No. 11

Keep on Shaggin'

November 1995

From the President - By Charlie Price

Congratulations to all of our members and friends who competed in the recent Virginia State Open Swing Dance Championships! And special thanks to CRAIG HUTCHINSON and the Potomac Swing Dance Club for hosting yet another fabulous dance weekend in Northern Virginia!

Speaking of significant accomplishments -- I have no doubt that our Club membership will pass the 200 mark by the end of this year! We owe it all to our members to regularly come out to DeJa Vu on Wed. (and now Sunday also) nights! Remember, one thing that makes our club stand out in comparison to other dance clubs is our friendliness. So, make a special effort to introduce yourself to our visitors and new members, try to make them feel at home, and get them out on the floor. Let's see if we can hit 300 members by the end of next year!

I would also like to thank those members who made our first "Summer" party a great success, financially and as a super party. Special thanks to DONNA, PAULINE, JOHN, NICK, C.W. ARTHUR, BOB LUTZ, JIM TAYLOR, VALERIE, FRED WHITMAN, and JIM HARLOW of the Lynchburg Shag Club. Mark your calendars now for our Club's Holiday Dance Party on Dec. 9th. Don't just read about it, come on out and be part of the fun!

Finally, the election for next year's Club officers and directors will be held at DeJa Vu on Wed., Nov. 15th. Please make a special effort to come out on the 15th and vote for the candidates of your choice. If you can't make it in person, please mail in the ballot that is included with this newsletter. All voting will be by written ballot, and mailed ballots must be postmarked on or before November 10th to be valid. Remember, this is your club, and it will only be as good and as strong as you are willing to make it. The place to start is by electing officers and directors who share your view of what our club is all about.

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

BRENT KEY & SHEA CARVER WINNERS at VA STATE OPEN BILLY WHITE & KAREN GARMON OF VA. BEACH PLACE 4TH, OVERALL CLASSIC

CONGRATULATIONS SHAGGERS, who burned up the floor (and blew the roof off with those whirlwind spins!), at the Virginia State Open Swing Dance Competitions last month.

BRENT KEY and SHEA CARVER won FIRST PLACE in the Open Classic Carolina Shag division, with their phenomenal performance of The Carolina Shag, Myrtle Beach style. And -- *it gets better* -- they also took FIRST PLACE in the Overall Classic competition (*that is, over all the other Amateur and Open Classic first-place winners for Lindy Hop; Jitterbug; DC Hand Dance; West Coast Swing; and Hustle -- ten other couples*)!! Proud parents SONNY & JUDY CARVER, and KEN & CONNIE KEY were there to witness this historic event. Brent and Shea will represent Virginia in the Shag division at the U.S. Open Swing Dance Competitions in Anaheim, California, to be held later this month. Stay tuned

Impressive displays of coolness and smooth, precise footwork were also seen in the Open Classic Carolina Shag division by Club members RICK & LIBBY HENDRIX, SID STRAWDERMAN and LINDA MINTON of the Richmond Shag Club. *Alright!!*

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS also to BILLY WHITE & KAREN GARMON of the Virginia Beach Shag Club! They took FIRST PLACE in the Amateur Classic Carolina Shag division (*their first time competing, by the way*), and FOURTH PLACE (!!) in the Overall Classic competition, over some fabulous swing dancers. *Great shaggin' y'all!!* Club members BILL HOPKINS & CHRIS PAX, and ED MAGIN & JANIS GRIMES also performed well in the Amateur division. *Cool.*

If you missed *this*, you really missed it!!

NEWS / INFO -- Contact: Janis Grimes, 703-536-7362 - leave message.

COOK-OUT THANK YOU's . . .by Donna Harrington

It happened . . . and you made it wonderful!

Finally, just before the snows arrived, we celebrated our first Shag Cook-out and Dance. The stars were, indeed, out on Saturday night, Sept. 30th, though most of us elected to dance inside on "John's" dance floor. (Ask him about the section which displayed a bit of wanderlust during the return trip to the rental store!)

Guests from Baltimore, New Jersey, Portsmouth, and Lynchburg made the evening even more festive.

A demo was presented by our dancers who were to compete in the VA State Open Competitions the following weekend -- we got a preview of how great they looked!

Our chef extraordinaire, Nick Nichols, did a gourmet job on our burgers and weenies.

A large thank you to him and the many other fine cooks who contributed, deliciously, to the cuisine of the evening.

Additional chefs included: Valerie, Pat, Rick, Carmie, Mark, Sharon (Salpini & Shipp), Ruth, Bonnie, Bob, Janis, Sandy and Joan.

There were many other offers of "what can I do to help" throughout the evening, and we were grateful for every one. Truly, the night would not have been successful without everyone's contributions. It was tremendous fun, and we made a profit of \$118 for our club's treasury!

Speaking of FUN

The word from JACKIE McGEE is that tickets are going fast for the SOS Grand National Dance Championships in Atlanta next Memorial Day weekend -- in fact, she said they'll likely be SOLD OUT by Christmas! So, if you're thinking about going to this great, first-class event where you can meet and dance with some of the best dancers in the country, better get your tickets now, before they're all gone -- and they will be! *Fliers at Deja Vu.*

New Members in October

Welcome, new members!! Neil Byrd, Joseph Crane, Bruce Collier, Michael Browne, Ruth Browne, Larry Roach, Donald Lynch, Sarah Brodsky, Jim Pearce, Jr., Charles Stringer

Shagger Profile -- Richard B. White

Nickname: Dick

Occupation: Sell commercial & residential alarms. Burglary and fire alarms.

Birthday: January 14

Hometown: Jacksonville, FL

Marital Status: Married, afflicted with teenagers and 3 demanding cats

Self-Portrait: Workaholic trying to convert and come to his senses

Motto: The best opportunities come to me when I least expect them. The best things in my life have come to me by "happenstance," not planned, but by accident and circumstance.

Dream: To be financially independent. To be able to go to the NVSC and VA Beach Shag Club regularly and expand my circle of snagging friends. Stop stepping on women's toes when I dance. And own a weed wacker.

Bad Habit: Not taking charge and changing bad circumstances. Not taking personal risks.

Hobby: Dancing, soul searching and other bad habits.

Favorite dance tune: Sooner or Later

Luxury defined: Having a deep muscle massage, particularly the feet and legs after the VA Beach Bash.

Drink or Wine: Mystic

TV Program: Picket Fences and MTV's Real People. National news.

Books at bedside: Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus; Course in Miracles; The Celestine Prophecy; Sandler Selling System; Stupid People I've Known and Thought I Wanted To Be Like (autobiography)

Last words: I'll bet you can't learn the dance step that I learned in Jacksonville, Florida, when I used to live there....

You Can Win!!

50-50 Drawing at Deja Vu

First Wednesday

Happy, Happy Birthday



November Birthdays:

- 3 - Raymond Hammill
- 5 - Bill Hopkins
- 6 - Matthew Cosgrove
- 7 - Jim Nanney
- 8 - Valerie Swiger
- 11 - Jose Garcia-Frias
- 11 - Craig Hutchinson
- 13 - John "Catfish" Kelly
- 13 - Eddie Magin
- 14 - Donna Nicholson
- 15 - Debra Williams
- 17 - John Khalil
- 21 - Steve Adams
- 21 - Eddy Farmer
- 21 - Larry Roach
- 24 - Harvey Niblack
- 27 - Chris Meyer
- 28 - Betty Harrington
- 30 - Bonnie Niblack

SUNDAY SOCIAL

EVERY SUNDAY!!

DANCE TO BEACH MUSIC

6 - 10 P.M.

INTERMEDIATE LESSONS*

START ON NOVEMBER 5TH

5 - 6 P.M.

AT

DEJA VU

"HOME OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA SHAG CLUB"

\$2 COVER

LEARN NEW STEPS!!

* Come early to register before class on Nov. 5th

(BE THERE, OR BE SQUARE!)

We're Havin' a Party



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

HOLIDAY PARTY

DANCE to BEACH MUSIC

FOOD, BEVERAGES

FRIENDS, FUN

Saturday, December 9th

7:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

McLean VFW

Old Dominion & Spring Hill Road

McLean, Virginia

Bring Your Favorite Fancy Dish

Appetizer, Entrée or Dessert

BYOB -- Cash Bar for Beer (only \$1.00!!)

Tickets - \$15 per person

RSVP: Valerie 703-281-9193

Fun•Shag•Fun•Shag•Fun•Shag•Fun•Shag•Fun

DOOR PRIZES NEEDED FOR HOLIDAY PARTY!!!

Do you or your business/company have
anything to donate as door prizes?

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Contact Pauline 759-4478
Donna 356-6035

AND THE WINNER IS . . .

CONGRATULATIONS, Pauline Easby-Smith,
who got lucky and won the last 50-50 drawing!

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT
EFFORT TO RAISE MONEY FOR OUR
CLUB! See JOHN BELT, our Club Treasurer, for
your tickets (1 for \$1, or 7 for \$5!!) and YOU might
be the lucky one the next time.....

The 50-50 Drawing will be held the FIRST
WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH -- maybe more
often if the response is good!

The Life and Death of a Dance Floor.....(or, You Wanna Play? You Gotta Pay. . .)

Recently, there were two important events in the life of our club -- our first "Dance Party"; and participation by local and out-of-town shaggers in the Virginia State Open Dance Competitions. The limited turnout by our membership for both of these events brings to mind a "fact of life" that sometimes seems to escape us . . . if you wanna play, you gotta pay....

In the past year we have heard the sad news that two sister shag clubs lost their dance floors due to lack of participation and support by their own memberships. And we've seen other local dance clubs struggle to find a new place to dance after losing their space -- often with little or no warning.

We are very fortunate to have our "home" at Deja Vu. The space is large enough to accommodate a very large crowd of shaggers and friends; it is in a good location, convenient for most people and easy to find; Wednesday nights -- and now Sunday nights!! -- are dedicated to our Shag Club and Beach Music (and this is the *only* place this is happening in the entire area, folks); and the cover charge is only \$2.00. That is a small price to pay in this D.C. metropolitan area to enter a dance club with such a pleasant environment. You can socialize and dance with great people, and single ladies can go there and feel safe.

Other dance clubs in this area charge a much higher cover -- \$5 or even \$10 is the usual. They have to, in order to stay in business! It seems that dancers generally do not drink or spend enough money to support the establishment that is supporting their activity. But it is not necessary to buy alcohol, if you don't want to drink and dance. Buy soft drinks, or juice -- they stock a variety of juices at the bar that are delicious and healthy. Go early and buy dinner or a light snack. Blackie's is an excellent restaurant, and they'll serve you right at the bar in Deja Vu!

A dance floor represents a large investment that must earn a profit, or it will cease to exist. Blackie's has to make a profit to stay in business, that's a "fact of life." If most of the income is being generated by the CW's on the "other side," and the shaggers are not spending enough to make it worthwhile to open Deja Vu and pay a doorman, a bartender and a DJ -- what do you think will happen?

The important thing to remember is to buy something -- anything -- to pay your share toward keeping that dance floor. The bartender and the DJ are there working to earn a living. They are not volunteers who are there just to hang around with us. Please remember to thank them with a tip, and SPEND MONEY.

Support your club -- come on out on Wednesdays and Sundays to shag and party with your friends at DEJA VU. And remember, if you wanna play, you gotta pay.

"JACK & JILL"

SHAG DEMONSTRATION

Dance Partners Selected
By RANDOM DRAWING

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
at DEJA VU

Dancers need to register
by 8:30 p.m.

Northern Virginia Shag Club

...

SHAG The Dance Legend

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 fascinating, beautiful 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. *I could not put it down!!*

If you are interested in the history of your dance this is a must read. By ordering through our club, we make \$4 per copy -- the book will be on display every Wednesday night at Deja Vu.

If you're interested in this priceless artifact,
see JOHN BELT!

Intermediate Shag Lessons

with
Chris Pax and Bill Hopkins

Okay, so you've learned the shag basic, the male and female underarm turn, a mirror step or two, and you're working on getting that pivot down . . . now what? Where do you go to learn more?

Here's an idea: **Starting Nov. 5th, NVSC will offer Intermediate shag lessons from 5-6 p.m. on Sundays at Deja Vu.** This class is an outgrowth of the earlier, free intermediate classes that used to be offered on Wed. nights. Because of the growing size of that group, the time and attention required to learn new steps, and NVSC's need to raise funds for club activities, the format has evolved into something new. Now the class will be a four-week course. We will meet for a full hour each Sunday at a time when there are no competing distractions. This new format will allow for more time and room to practice and master each step, and to get all of your questions answered. Because this class meets on a different night of the week, you can expect to see your dancing improve faster, as you get out there and shag two nights a week, instead of one.

After much (much!) discussion, we have decided to charge a small fee of \$15 per person, or \$25 per couple, for each four-week course. The instructors for the class will donate their time to the club, so 100% of this money will go to your club's treasury.

The Intermediate Shag Class will cover eight new steps (four mirror patterns and four leadable steps, plus some variations), but will also stress form and technique. You'll get tips to make your dancing smoother and more shag-like. **To sign up, just show up early, before the first class on Nov. 5th.**

Come and join us -- it'll be fun!

FREE - Carolina Shag Lessons

Every Wednesday night at 7:30 sharp, **FREE BEGINNER SHAG LESSONS** are given by NVSC members at **Deja Vu -- Blackie's, Commerce Street, Springfield.** Dance afterwards to **BEACH MUSIC** by **BERT NELBACH** from 8 - 12 p.m. Cover \$2.00. Call 703-971-4200 for directions.

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The Shagmaster Says.....

- Shaggers Do It With Their Feet
- Be patient with yourself -- and others
- *Keep on Shaggin'*



From the Editor

Hey Y'all! Are you getting into the Holiday Mode? It's getting time to party, party and dance, dance, dance! I know we'd all like to extend sincere thanks to our 1995 Club Officers and Board Members, who have done an admirable job of guiding our club. Thank you, one and all, and Good Luck to the new Officers and Board Members, who will be elected this month.

Do you have an idea, a suggestion, something to say? Want to write an ad, an article, a column, your *Shagger Profile*? Just let me know, okay?

See ya Shaggin'

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NOTICE! Members Only! NVSC Shag Video Library

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 **one week, FREE OF CHARGE**. A refundable \$10 deposit permits you to view the tape for one week. A small charge of \$5 for each additional week is required.

See LARRY CAMP - he's available at Deja Vu on Wednesday nights, or call him at 703-823-0282.

GOING TO N. MYRTLE BEACH??

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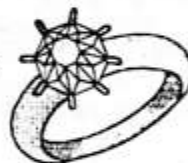
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