



SHAG RAG

Shag Dancer Newsletter



Dedicated to the Preservation of the Carolina Shag and Beach Music

Vol. III, No. 1

Keep on Shaggin'

January 1996

From the President - By Charlie Price

It seems like it was just a few months ago that we moved to Deja Vu, but it has been almost a full year! In that time we have seen a great many changes for the better, particularly in the size of the Club, having doubled in the past 12 months! Despite this rapid growth, I am particularly pleased that the friendliness that newcomers find at our Club has not suffered. It is important that each of us bear in mind that, more than our dance and Beach Music, it is our friendliness that makes the Northern Virginia Shag Club a special place, and keeps people coming back. If you are an experienced Shagger, male and female alike make a special effort every Wednesday to dance with several of the newcomers, work with them, and encourage them to stick with it through that sometimes embarrassing learning curve. I know that I have personally seen more than one person at Deja Vu who I never, ever, thought would "get" the Shag, but who, after several weeks of doggedly "stickin' with it" actually began to look like a Shagger! Remember also, anyone who is a member of our club can borrow a copy of Jackie and Charlie's teaching tape -- "Basics Plus" -- for two weeks at no cost! See Larry Camp to make the necessary arrangements.

Last but not least, I want to formally welcome Jim Taylor and Fred Whitman, who were appointed by the Board of Directors to serve as two additional Directors at Large for our Club, increasing the size of the Board to four officers and five Directors at Large. Appropriate resolutions will be submitted for adoption at the next Membership Meeting. With the increase in the size of our Club, it was the Board's belief that we needed a larger Board to handle the work that we need to get done this coming year. Since Jim and Fred had been nominated and had agreed to serve if elected, they were the most logical candidates for the appointments.

So-o-o stay tuned to this channel for more information, we've got some great plans for this coming year, not the least of which is National Shag Champions Sy Creed and Dana Brown teaching a Club workshop in February!

Keep on Shaggin' and see you at Deja Vu!

Carolina Shag Workshops

with

1993 National Shag Champions Sy Creed and Dana Brown

Learn the Basic Fundamentals,
Style and Technique

When: Saturday, February 10th

Where: Deja Vu at Blackie's, Springfield, VA

Three Workshops:

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Beginner | 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon |
| Intermediate | 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. |
| Advanced | 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. |

Cost: \$15 per workshop per person

YOU DO NOT NEED A PARTNER!

SIGN UP before Feb. 3rd to assure your place in class!

To pre-register, call:

Rick Hendrix - 703-425-0006
Mark Rollings - 703-406-9726

Private Lessons are available during the weekend at the rate of \$25 per person per hour (\$25 - individual lesson; \$50 - couple).
To schedule Private Lessons call Mark Rollings - 703-406-9726

NVSC Officers and Board Members

| | | |
|------------|----------------|--------------|
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| Board Mem. | Fred Whitman | 301-816-2941 |

News/Info -- please contact:
Editor: Janis Grimes, 703-536-7362
Co-Editor: Trelle Shaw, 703-768-7424

The Beach Music Was Still Playing! ... by Patricia Parrott

It was exhilarating! It was exciting! It was a party! It was like being on a daring adventure away from normal life. It was a dance! Suspended in time, swaying, flowing, moving with the music... unaware of all that exists outside of the dance itself.

I wondered if I would get home safely, yet I was in no hurry to get there. I was cold, but I didn't feel cold. It was scary, yet I was not afraid. It was late, but I was wide awake. I was alone, although I had lots of company. There were many people around... around me... all preoccupied with the same task as I... negotiating the ice-covered roads.

Now why, you ask, is a single, middle-aged woman on the road driving in extremely hazardous conditions late at night in a car that's fourteen years old? Why isn't she indoors where it's cozy, safe and warm... forewarned of the danger lurking outside? The only answer I can give is that the "beach music was still playing... there were dances yet to be danced." I was oblivious to the weather leaving Blackie's on that Wednesday night, December 13th. My first hint of icy roads came as I went up and around the ramp to get onto 495 N. and met two cars facing in my direction. One of the drivers was out of his car, slipping and sliding across ice towards the other car. From that moment on, it was Katie Bar The Door!

During the next two hours, two people ask me if I need help, one person asked me to help him, and I asked someone for help. I see cars rammed in fences, stuck in ditches, cars abandoned, cars immobilized by ice, cars slippin' and slidin', and I regret to say, several pile-ups. I sincerely feel sorry for anyone injured or severely inconvenienced that night. Though I made it home safely, it was touch and go. I quickly learned that it's good to avoid applying brakes on ice. After skidding helplessly and winding up blinking at oncoming traffic... I didn't do that again! I went real slow! Diverted from the main road by a police barrier, I, along with many others (*what are all these people doing out so late on a night like this?!*) attempt to get back to the main road only to be thwarted by ice.

I see two young men, their tires squealing uphill, and I hear their nervous laughter when they reach the top. The air is crisp and clean. The trees sparkle and glisten with ice, reflecting off the lights against the darkness of the night. I am surrounded by diamonds! It is beautiful out here! I leave my car and go in search of change for a dollar and a phone to call my family to tell them I am okay... I'm okay, I just can't get home! Shall I leave my car and walk? No, walking on ice is as dangerous as driving on ice. I push onward and finally come upon a main road that has been salted. Soon I'm home. Oh no! The music has stopped! The dance has ended! I go inside. It is warm, cozy and safe.

Shagger Profile -- James Nanney

Nickname: Jim

Occupation: Historian, U.S. Air Force

Birthday: November 7

Hometown: Fulton, Kentucky

Marital Status: Single

Self-Portrait: Young at heart; still looking for exciting challenges

Motto: Make your own happiness

Dream: Publish a lot more; dance a lot more; especially Carolina Shag

Inspiration: Ayn Rand - novelist and philosopher

Bad Habit: Worry too much

Hobby: Swing Dancing; small arms shooting

Luxury defined: A large house and my own dance studio; someone to share it with.

Drink or Wine: Jack Daniels; red wine

Books at bedside: The Fountainhead; Philosophy: Who Needs It?

Last words: Too soon.



Happy, Happy Birthday

January Birthdays:

- 2 - Sam Lewis
- 7 - Phyllis Schulte
- 9 - John Belt
- 9 - Janis Grimes
- 9 - Becky Jones
- 12 - Mary Jane German
- 14 - Ruth Browne
- 14 - Dick White
- 16 - Pauline Easby-Smith
- 21 - Libby Hendrix
- 23 - Kay Brown
- 23 - Charlie Price
- 26 - Louise Ingram
- 27 - Mary Ann Lerch
- 27 - Jim Pearce
- 29 - Karen Rice
- 29 - Ken Tyler

ThanksThanksThanks

NOVA SHAG CLUB'S **HOLIDAY PARTY**

By Charlie Price

Thanks to the hard work of PAULINE EASBY-SMITH and DONNA HARRINGTON, the Holiday Party held on December 9th at the McLean VFW was enjoyed by all, ending the most successful year in the history of the Nova Shag Club. For those who were not able to make it, the food was incredible, the decorations festive and beautiful, the music great, with good friends all around. What more could anyone ask for!

Club members enjoyed the food, the fun, the friendly atmosphere, and dancing the night away (7:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.) to beach music played by BERT Nelbach, amid the beautiful decorations and the fancy attire. A cash bar with mixers and beer (just a dollar) was available. Half way through the night, some interesting and terrific door prizes were given away to the those with the lucky numbers!

Although the music and dancing were great, the highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the food. Appetizers featured veggie trays, crackers, chips and assorted dips (including a delicious non-fat dip and a fabulous crab dip). After the appetizers, everyone lined up for the main courses that provided an assortment of wonderful dishes. Members enjoyed fried chicken, chicken casseroles, pork chops and pasta. Desserts were served last and everyone loved the cookies, brownies, cakes and pies. Archie Bell and the Drells in their song "Tighten Up" claim that they can "dance just as well as they sing!" But they have nothing over the NOVA Shag Club members, who proved they can "cook just as good as they dance!"

A sincere thanks also to VALERIE SWIGER for her tireless efforts in handling ticket sales and coordinating the food, PHYLLIS SCHULTE for her talent and effort in designing and constructing those exquisite table centerpieces, and JOHN BELT, RICK and LIBBY HENDRIX, BOB LUTZ, PAT PARROTT, and JIM TAYLOR for setting up, and most importantly, hanging around after everyone else had gone home to take down the decorations and clear the tables. Without the efforts of these folks, we would not have had a party to go to -- and if I missed anyone in this "thank you" list, I do apologize.

More Thanks... By Charlie Price

Both personally and on behalf of the entire Club, I want to thank those of our officers and directors who will not be serving in a formal capacity next year -- PAULINE EASBY-SMITH, DONNA HARRINGTON, and PATRICIA PARROTT. Each of these women has made very real and positive contributions to the health and welfare of our Club, and they will be sorely missed.

New Members in December

Welcome, new members!! Lee Antton, Marc Fisher, Fred Fritz, Craig Jennings, Judy Lance, Jackie Lindner, Joe McLaughlin, Barbara Novak, Barbara Stopanski, Helga Taranto, Barry Wingard

SUNDAY SOCIAL

EVERY SUNDAY!!

DANCE TO BEACH MUSIC

7 - 10 P.M.

INTERMEDIATE LESSONS

6 - 7 P.M.

\$5 CHARGE
FOR EACH LESSON

AT

DEJA VU

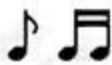
"HOME OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA SHAG CLUB"

\$2 COVER

LEARN NEW STEPS!!

YOU DO NOT NEED A PARTNER

(BE THERE, OR BE SQUARE!)



Member Music Survey

What's your favorite shag tune? We're compiling a list of your favorite BEACH / SHAG MUSIC. Take a minute -- call and let us know!



Road Trips With Gypsies

As you read this, shaggers are eagerly anticipating the next journey south for the annual ACSC Mid-Winter Beach Classic party in Myrtle Beach, SC, the weekend of January 11-14. Do you need a ride? A place to stay? Better hurry and make plans fast -- you don't want to miss this!! Your Shag Club membership card -- WITH YELLOW DOT attached -- will give you FREE ENTRY into all participating clubs in Myrtle Beach. GET YOUR YELLOW DOT FROM LIBBY on Wed. night at Deja Vu!

AND THE WINNER IS ... \$\$\$

CONGRATULATIONS to member JIM TAYLOR, who got lucky and won the 50-50 drawing in at our Christmas Party!!

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 BILL HOPKINS or JOHN BELT!

You Can Win!!

50-50 Drawing at Deja Vu

First Wednesday



FREE - Carolina Shag Lessons

Every Wednesday night at 7:30 sharp, FREE BEGINNER SHAG LESSONS are given by NVSC members at Deja Vu -- in 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.

The Shagmaster Says.....

- Dance is rewarding all by itself; but there's a lot more to shag than just dancing. . .
- Take time to enjoy the fellowship of shaggers
- Take SMALLER STEPS
- Practice, practice, practice. . .

"Perhaps what most moves us in winter is some reminiscence of far-off summer. For we are....dancers, pursuing the summer... in boots and skates, all winter long. There is really but one season in our hearts."



From the Editor

HAPPY NEW YEAR, y'all! As we bundle up and dig in for the winter, I am thinking of warm days on the beach and hot nights on the dance floor, shaggin' to the hypnotic beat of the best music in the world. . . Hope to see you in Myrtle Beach at Mid-Winter Beach Classic!

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 MYRTLE BEACH??

To Attend SOS Events, YOU NEED THIS:

SOS MEMBERSHIP CARD GIVES YOU FREE ENTRY INTO ALL PARTICIPATING CLUBS DURING SOS

**Cost Reduction!! \$30 per person
Order before March 1st - SAVE \$\$**

Order through Libby Hendrix, our SOS Coordinator
If you do so before March 1, 1996, you will save \$5!!

You will receive S.O.S. membership card
Plus subscription to the *Carefree Times* for the year

Make check payable to No. Va. Shag Club - \$30
Info - call Libby at 703-425-0006

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