



SHAG RAG



Shag Dancer Newsletter

Dedicated to the Preservation of the Carolina Shag and Beach Music

Vol. III, No. 5

Keep on Shaggin'

May 1996

From the President - By Charlie Price

With less than two months to go before the last weekend in June, my message will be short and to the point: We need your support for the Capitol Shag Classic, and we need it now!

If you intend to attend the Classic -- buy your ticket now. If you intend to stay at the hotel -- make your reservation now.

We need to know as far in advance as possible how many people will be attending. I know that everyone, and I am no exception, tends to let things like this slide to the last minute, thinking that it doesn't really make any difference. **BUT THE FACT IS THAT BUYING YOUR TICKET IN ADVANCE AND MAKING YOUR ROOM RESERVATION IN ADVANCE MAKES A GREAT DEAL OF DIFFERENCE.**

Advance room reservations are particularly important, and you cannot beat the \$50 per night rate we negotiated. When you make your reservations, be sure to ask for the special shag club rate -- you will get the cheaper rate and we will get credit for your reservation.

Despite the hard work of a handful of members who are putting this weekend together, the bottom line is that it cannot happen without your commitment to attend! So, get out of that kitchen, rattle those pots and pans, shake, rattle, and roll, and buy your Classic weekend ticket and make your room reservation NOW!

SUPPORT YOUR CLUB and Keep On Shaggin'!

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ATTENTION

Party Party Party

Dance Dance Dance

Sign Up Now!!

Capitol Shag Classic

June 28-29-30, 1996

We are hosting our FIRST Annual Weekend Party, CAPITOL SHAG CLASSIC, June 28, 29, 30, at the Howard Johnson's on Rt. 1 in Alexandria. This will be a GREAT DANCE PARTY with ACSC DJs, continuous MUSIC, DANCING, and FOOD -- heavy hors d'oeuvres on Friday night, Breakfast and Dinner buffets on Saturday, a Continental breakfast on Sunday morning, and FREE POURS during the weekend. **And all for \$40 -- that's right, just \$40 per person for the entire weekend, including dancing, workshops, special entertainment, all-you-can-eat buffets, free pours, fun fun fun and more!!**

WORKSHOPS taught by competitive shaggers (LARRY & SHIRLEY JONES; and BRENT KEY & SHEA CARVER!!) are included. **PRIVATE LESSONS** will be offered -- call RICK HENDRIX to schedule.

PLEASE NOTE: We need to sell at least 35 rooms in order to have this party! CALL AND RESERVE YOUR ROOM NOW!! ROOMS are blocked and available to shaggers for only \$50 per night (1-4 persons)!! Yes, you heard right!! CALL NOW to reserve your room at this special rate -- 703-329-1400. The hotel is very close to historic Old Town Alexandria, and the Nation's Capital. *It's more fun to stay at the hotel -- don't drink and drive -- reserve a room today!*

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SOS

The First Time

by the Virgin Trippers

SOS was undoubtedly the biggest and best five-day party ever attended by the virgin trippers -- Vesta Jones, Donna Leibowitz, Trelle Shaw, Linda Shingleton (Trelle's NC friend) and Karen Wagley. We expected a good time, but our first SOS far exceeded our dreams. If you've never been to SOS you've got to begin making plans for your virgin trip NOW -- we all agreed that we'll be returning as experienced SOSers in September.

Trippin'

In anticipation of all the fun, Trelle suggested renting a car with a huge trunk so we could party together all the way down to Myrtle Beach. It turned out that we had to pay extra for additional drivers, but Trelle knew that when her toes hit the sand she would not want to get back in the van until it was time to go home (she made no bones about it -- when the sun was up she would be sleeping on the beach and when the sun went down she would be shagging -- she didn't even need to stop for meals -- just a quick Duck's burger once a day), so Karen signed on as the additional driver so everyone else could shop. Well, if you want to get a van for the price of a car, take Karen along. Karen is an expert about renting cars. She noticed a sign that said if you bring a car back empty it would be filled up at a charge of 99 cents a gallon. Obviously much cheaper than the gas pumps around here. Not only that, she had the same birthday as the rental clerk so they gave us a van for the price of a car! The trip was a success before we even headed south, except for the fact that no one guessed that after the first night we would never see Karen again until it was time to go home (except over coffee in the morning when everyone woke up).

To take advantage of Karen's suggestion and calculate exactly where to fill the car up on the way home, Trelle suggested that they not fill the car up until it registered empty. Everyone agreed with the idea until it became apparent around Lumberton, NC that Trelle's idea of empty was running out of gas on the highway and using Vesta's AAA plus card to have the van towed back to Alexandria.

Trelle was overruled and the van ended up being turned in with 1/8th of a tank of gas.

Lessons Learned

A week before leaving for Myrtle Beach, experienced SOSer Val Swiger gave Vesta some advice to share with the group: "If a man has gray hair and is tapping his toes, ask him to dance -- he's bound to be a good shagger." On the trip down, Trelle bragged, "I could never get worn out shaggin'. I can shag all night long. I hope there are plenty of gray-haired men tapping their toes." Trelle got her wish but ate her words before the place closed down on the second night. She was hobbling by midnight and had already iced her ankle and massaged her feet before everyone else returned.

We were fairly certain that we were well equipped with all our NVSC shag lessons and Val's expert advice, but Donna wondered if we would know all of the same mirror steps as the gray-haired toe-tappers. Of course with a group of women there is always an answer to everything. We all agreed when a man asked us if we knew a strange step we would say, "No, but do you know the Magnolia?" In case he was a wise man and asked us to show the steps to him, we agreed that we would tell him, "It is very complicated and involves about eight six-counts." Donna was the only one with the guts and the memory to test the plan. While dancing with her seventeenth gray-haired toe-tapper she was finally asked if she knew the Dippety Roll. When she gave him the Magnolia response his eyes sure enough lit up and he said, "Show it to me." Needless to say, Donna's response left him gaping, but he didn't ask her about any more mirror steps.

All the way to Myrtle Beach Vesta worried about getting there in time to buy dancing shoes so she would look like a shagger to go dancing Wednesday night (even brought her cell phone so she could call for directions to the Shoe Center from the car). When we reached Myrtle Beach, she called but was told the store closed in 10 minutes and we would not be able to buy shoes until Thursday morning. Turned out for the best, Trelle's friend Linda is a real southern shagger from Emerald Isle, NC. Linda explained to Vesta that it would take more than shoes to make her look like the real southern shagger -- it was gonna take GOLD -- gold earrings, gold belt, gold visor *and* gold dancing shoes, a true GOLDEN GIRL -- and sure enough, Vesta shagger with many more than her share of shaggers (was it really the gold?).

After the first night, Donna was told so often that she talked funny, she requested Southern as a second language lessons from Linda. Just ask how she asks a guy to shag now -- "Do y'all s h a y a g?" She got so good at her Southern drawl, she surprised them when she admitted she was from Washington, D.C. She loved the reactions she got: "I didn't know people know how to shag that far north"; "Say WHAT?????"; "Oh Lawd, you're really out of your element"; "You mean Washington, NC?"; "But where did you learn to shag?"; "Are you SERIOUS?"; "Do you work for the IRS?"; "You're a Yankee?????"

Top Ten Lessons Learned at SOS

- 10 When renting a car, get everyone licensed to drive (Karen wasn't there)
- 9 Girls need to rent a van and party while they travel -- it's better than a year of therapy
- 8 Groups are great in the van -- but not on the dance floor
- 7 Crowded SOS dance floors prove Rick Hendrix right -- real shaggers take TINY steps
- 6 Two beach chairs and two beach towels will work for five girls -- rotate every hour chair to towel -- Karen wasn't there)
- 5 Take at least one real southerner along in your group to interpret
- 4 Even if you agree on a favorite beach tape, you don't have to listen to it all the way home
- 3 A four-roll pack of toilet paper is not enough for five girls for five days (In spite of the fact that Karen didn't use her share)
- 2 Men LOVE to dance with a single woman. (Definition of a single woman: a woman standing alone, ALL BY HERSELF, standing beside Karen (Karen wasn't there)
- 1 Not all gray-haired toe-tappers can shag

Questions You Don't Want Answered

- Who wouldn't wear a visor in the car and WHY?
- Why did the van stop by a wooded path traveling back to DC, and who decided to take advantage of it?
- Where was Karen?
- Who won the prize for picking up the best shagger?
- Why do men stand in line outside the Ladies room -- to meet women?
- Who won the prize for dropping the best shagger -- swept him off his feet and dropped him flat on the floor!
- How you pronounce C H E R Y L in Southern as a second language?

•Who had their breath and their voice taken away the last night?

•Why are the Virgins putting a rose in the blender?

•Who told their favorite male shagger he should have worn panty hose -- and why?

•How did Bob and Val play a part in why Donna decided she'll never miss another SOS?

•Who invited the most shaggers to come to our Capitol Shag Classic weekend in June? (Expect some SOS toe-tappers)

•How far will an SOS toe-tapper travel to attend our June shag weekend?

•How long will it take before the first SOS toe-tapper visits DC?

•Why doesn't everybody go to SOS?

Editor's Note: A Golden Keyboard Award is hereby presented to Trelle Shaw, Vesta Jones, Donna Liebowitz and Karen Wagley. (Can I ride with you in September?)

Shagger Profile -- Mary Ferguson

Nickname: Fergie

Occupation: Contract Interiors / Office Furniture

Birthday: June 17

Hometown: Fairfax, VA

Marital Status: Divorced

Self-Portrait: Lovable, outgoing, focused, insightful, friendly

Motto: "Turn it over."

Dream:: Health and Happiness

Hobby: Dancing, volunteer Special Olympics, Skating

Luxury defined: My place at the beach -- Ocean City

TV Program: Biography

Drink or Wine: Drink -- Cape Cod

Books at bedside: Mysteries

Last words: Thanks -- I enjoyed it all.

This newsletter is interrupted to bring you an important update:

FIVE COUPLES competed in a NEW Carolina Shag Division at the Fourth American Swing Dance Championships held in New York City on April 13th. This is first time -- ever -- that there has been a Carolina Shag Division at a national swing competition. Four shag couples came all the way from North Carolina, and one from Virginia, to participate in this exciting event. Shaggers JACKIE McGEE, CHARLIE WOMBLE and DJ JUDY COLLINS from N. Myrtle Beach were among the judges.

The Carolina Shag Division became a reality due largely to the tireless efforts of shag instructor SUSIE BEAVER, who rounded up a group of competitive dancers and headed for the Big Apple to perform in this internationally recognized dance competition.

Asked to comment, SUSIE said, "We and our dance were accepted with open arms -- the response to our dance and dancing was beyond belief. I was overwhelmed at the way the other dancers welcomed us and our dance with such respect. I was ecstatic and honored to be part of the group that danced -- I felt that we made a wonderful impact in the swing community, and they got to see the Carolina Shag at its greatest. I thank those of us that danced and those that made us feel welcome, especially ALAN ROCOFF and TEDDY KERN."

First Place winners were BRENT KEY (aka "The Kid") and SHEA CARVER, who had everyone in the room on their feet by the time they completed their dazzling performance.

Finishing in 2nd Place were TREY McCANTS and WENDY TEETER, who are competitors on the shag circuit, having won 3rd place in the National Shag Championships.

Club members BILL HOPKINS and JANIS GRIMES finished 3rd, with enthusiastic support from friends and local dancers who were there. CONGRATULATIONS, Shaggers!!



CONGRATULATIONS

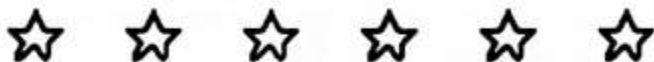
to club member DJs

Eddy Farmer

Craig Jennings

Denny Martin

*on being voted in as members
of the Association of Beach
and Shag Club DJs
at SOS Spring Safari 1996*



New Members in April

WELCOME, new members!! Pamela Alfano, Norm Branca, Debra Danforth, Dana Doran, Luci Hutton, John Katon, Beverly Sgroi

FOR RENT: Nice CONDO in N. Myrtle Beach: 2 BR, 2 Baths, 4 blocks from Fat Harold's, 2 blocks from Ocean. Sleeps 6. Swimming pool, washer/drier. (SORRY--not available during SOS!) CANVASBACK -- Contact Beachcomber Realty, 800-334-3798 thru

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Membership Directories

New membership directories are available to MEMBERS ONLY for just \$2.00. Copies available at Deja Vu each Wednesday night.

Our Club sends heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Dewey Kennedy, who recently passed away. Dewey was well known in the shag community, having won the first Shell Award for Favorite Male Partner. He will be deeply missed.

Another of Shorty's Excellent Adventures... by Shorty George

"Hey," y'all. I can't believe it myself, but it's been eight l-o-o-o-ng months since ol' Shorty last stirred his lazy bones and got hisself back on the road again with those NVSC party animals and their friends for Spring SOS. What with christening Valerie Swiger's new condo, finding new gastronomic delights with Rick "Damn the Tagamet and full speed ahead" Mesmer, and just trying to stay reasonably sober around some folks -- and we won't name any names right now -- everyone had an absolute ball. So thanks to Linda Arthur, John Belt, Larry Camp, Pauline Easby-Smith, Eddy Farmer, Dewain Hammond, Fran Harris, Rick & Libby Hendrix, Craig Jennings, Vesta Jones, John "Catfish" Kelly, Donna Leibowitz, Heather Lovern, Bob Lutz, Nick & Debbie Nichols (at least someone said you were there), Charlie Price, Larry Roach, Bob & Karen Rogers, Mark Rollings, Beverly Sgroi, Trell Shaw, David & Sharon Shipp, Helga Taranto, Sid Strawderman, Jim Taylor, Mary Taylor, Karen Wagley, Wayne Hicks from Lake Wylie with those black and white wing tips, that young guy from Charleston whose name I don't remember who worked all of those wild and crazy jitterbug moves into his Shag, all of our DC Hand Dance friends, Jackie & Charlie, Budweiser, Murl Augustine, Gary Bass, Clyde Waller, Duck/Ducks Too, Pirate's Cover, OD Arcade, the Pad, Fat Harold's, Tilghman's, fast music, Kir, the beach, the Shag parade, Captain Julie's on Little River, those stupid stools with udders, late night snacks at the Boulevard Grill, and everyone I forgot to name (please believe me, it wasn't on purpose, but when you get older, your mind is the first thing to go, and I'm not goin' to tell you what the next thing is!), it wouldn't have been the same without you -- we just gotta do it again sometime (like maybe in the Fall??!!).

SOS has something for everyone. Those who want to dance, of course, but also those who want to party (spelled d-r-i-n-k!); those who want to see some of the great Shaggers dance; those who want to hear the latest music; those who want to meet someone; those who want to lay around at the pool or the beach; and those who want any combination of the above. All those folks just a-strollin' around with smiles on their faces. All day long, just a rockin' and a rollin'.

Until next time, remember -- keep on walkin' that walk, and talkin' that talk! S.G.

HUMOR CORNER

How To Write Good

1. Avoid alliteration. Always.
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
3. Avoid clichés like the plague.
4. Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are unnecessary.
5. It is wrong ever to split an infinitive.
6. Contractions aren't necessary.
7. One should never generalize.
8. Comparisons are as bad as clichés.
9. One word sentences? Eliminate.
10. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.



The Roving Shag Reporter...

The word just in over the wires is that CONGRATULATIONS are in order for LARRY CAMP and MARY TAYLOR, who recently became engaged!! They have not yet set a date, but the ring is on her finger. *Stay tuned -- we will keep you informed!*
