



# SHAG RAG

## Shag Dancer Newsletter



*Dedicated to the Preservation of the Carolina Shag and Beach Music*

Vol. III, No. 9 *Keep on Shaggin'* September 1996

### From the President - By Charlie Price

Well, I can't believe it, but Summer is just about over, and it is time, once again, to start thinking about electing a new slate of officers and directors. The election will take place in November. You will be electing four officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and five Directors at Large to serve during calendar year 1997. The Nominating Committee consists of **Donna Harrington, Vesta Jones, Charlie Price, and Trelle Shaw**. If you would like to run for any of these offices, or if you would like to nominate someone, please let any member of the Nominating Committee know and your name or the nominee's name (if they agree to serve if elected) will be placed on the ballot. Please help make 1997 the best year ever for our Club. From time to time I have heard a complaint that there is a "clique" in the Club. If that is true, the only "clique" that I am aware of is made up of those members who have volunteered to help make this Club run, and who, by joining together to manage the Club's affairs, or to put on Club events, have come to know one another better. I do know one thing for sure, and that is that the only "clique" in our Club is one that is open to any member who is willing to step forward and help out. What is holding you back? Don't be shy, step up and put your hat in the ring. You will have a good time, you will make good friends, and you can accomplish something you can be proud of.

Changing the subject slightly, when you attend Deja Vu or other Club events, please, please part with a few dollars and buy a chance in our 50-50 raffle. The bottom line is that 50-50's are one of our principal means of generating operating funds on a regular basis, and one of the factors that enables us to hold the line on our annual membership dues. So, please don't keep your hands in your pockets when we come around with the 50-50 tickets; get 'em out there -- hopefully with a little cash attached -- and help support your Club. You know, *someone* has to win half of the money collected, but it won't be you if you don't buy a ticket.

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

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



### S.O.S. Fall Migration

**Sept. 6-15 in North Myrtle Beach, S.C.**

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

For those of you who have not yet been to S.O.S., it is the best time you could ever imagine. Where else can you find over 5,000 friends (old and new!) 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 Stranders (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 *waaay* 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 me! In addition to the dancing, there are several complimentary buffets throughout the week, as a gift from the clubs to the shaggers. And it's all right there -- at The Beach!

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

## A Female's Perspective . . . by Patricia Parrott

A male member of the club wrote a very interesting and informative article in last month's newsletter concerning an issue to which we all relate. That is the fear and intimidation faced when we ask someone who is above our level of ability to dance, the relief we experience when they graciously and cheerfully accept, and the benefit we derive from dancing with them.

It's great to hear a male's viewpoint expressed, but, there are two sides to the coin; the view of the female dancer and that of the dancer beneath our dance level. We all experience times when we wish we could dance just once with that great partner, the best on the floor. Yet, we hesitate to ask, believing that we don't dance well enough. Yes, we know we need to have the courage to ask, but it isn't easy. So, all of us dancers need to be aware of this side of the coin and put the shoe on the other foot, too. We all need to be willing to risk a less than perfect dance in order to ask others not as advanced in dance skill.

As a female, I believe we're more sensitive to this need. I've heard other ladies express the same thought, that we all need to ask people below our level, so it isn't only me saying this. Historically, ladies wait for men to ask. We've broken through that barrier, thank goodness. I vividly recall the first time I approached the best male dancer on the floor. I was surprised when he accepted, then more surprised when he suggested another dance; but I was overwhelmed by the rush that I felt afterwards. It felt so good to be in control that I wanted to do it again, and again. That incident was possibly the catalyst for me becoming the dance demon that I am today, though I soon had heard the whole range of refusal excuses.

Which brings me to another aspect of boy/girl dancing. Females are often reluctant to ask a male for a dance if he is married or with a lady friend, so as not to offend the lady. I learned this lesson personally when I was pushed aside in mid-dance by someone else taking my place. In these situations, it is up to the man and his lady to send the message that it's okay to dance with others. They need to be the first to ask.

Fortunately, these situations are not pervasive in the Northern Virginia Shag Club. We function as a team. Newcomers and beginning dancers often comment that they are made to feel comfortable by our warm, friendly reception. I especially heard this statement made over and over at our very successful Capitol Shag Classic weekend.

\* \* \*

## FOR SHAGGERS ONLY...

*Dear Readers: Do you have shag questions or problems that you need help in resolving? Gabby (Shagmaster's alter ego and "better half") will give you the help you need. Call or write to Gabby, c/o the Editor.*

**Dear Gabby:**

I tripped and almost fell on my way to the dance floor. Do you think anyone noticed?--*Clumsy in D.C.*

**Dear Clumsy:**

*Probably, but it could have been worse! Just get back up on the beat, and it won't count against you.*

**Dear Gabby:**

Whenever the DJ plays a certain shag song, I perspire so much that by the end of the dance my partner and I are both soaked. What can I do about this?--*Sweat Bucket*

**Dear Bucket:**

*Don't sweat it! Appeal to the management for increased air-conditioning. Or, bring a hairdryer and a change of clothes, and remember -- you can buy a personalized NVSC "shag rag" towel through the club. See Libby to order yours!*

*Got a question? Call or write to Gabby, c/o the Editor.*

**NOTICE:** Studio efficiencies NEAR CAVALIER HOTEL during Virginia Beach Bash in October, @ \$45 per night, sleeps 4. *The Cavalier is SOLD OUT!* Do you need a room? **Call ASAP** - John Ambrose, 804-428-9021; info - 703-536-7362

## New Members in August

WELCOME, new members!! Diane Farhat, Marshall Ojeda, Sam Rankin, Frank Stowell, Bill Smyth

## FYI:

**S.O.S. Beach Run** will take place on the 2nd Saturday of Fall Migration, Sept. 14th

**S.O.S. Line Dance Championships** will take place during the last week of Fall Migration

## Shagger Profile -- Hilkka Winborn

*Occupation:* Hairstylist and owner of New Image Hair Designs

*Birthday:* March 4

*Hometown:* Kalajoki, Finland

*Marital Status:* Separated

*Dream::* Some day to move to a warm climate

*Hobby:* Gardening, reading, dancing

*Luxury defined:* I am very thankful for all the luxuries I have

*Drink or Wine:* Gin & tonic and White Zinfandel

*Books at bedside:* Ten Stupid Things Women Do to Mess Up Their Lives; Between Parent & Teenager; and Danielle Steel, The Gift

\*\*\*

## Happy, Happy Birthday

### September Birthday Babies:

- 2 - John Krooth
- 3 - Dawn Papas
- 12 - Barry Wingard
- 13 - Betty Abshire
- 13 - Jim McLean
- 16 - Sandra Cangiano
- 20 - Eddie Bunch
- 21 - Frank Stowell
- 23 - Joe Crane
- 25 - Carolyn Bopp
- 27 - Patricia Parrott

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



**WINNER -- Cool Condo Award**

**Shaggers Do It With Their Feet**

## DIRECTIONS to N. Myrtle Beach -- the SHORTEST ROUTE

Courtesy of Larry & Shirley Jones of Richmond, VA (they make 15 trips per year!)

95 South to Lumberton, NC

Take Exit 14 (Rt. 74) -- TURN LEFT at end of exit, heading South...

Stay on 74 @ 26 miles until you get to Rt. 410 South -- TURN RIGHT

Stay on 410 through Chadborne until it dead ends.

TURN RIGHT onto 701 South.

About a mile down the road 701 will bear to the LEFT at Hardee's.

Stay on 701 to Rt. 9.

Stay on Rt. 9 to Rt. 17 South, into N. Myrtle Beach -- then you're HOME!!

\*\*\*

## Prearranged Lodging for S.O.S. "First-Come, First-Served"

Stay 2 blocks from the dance floors in a 3-bedroom condo, where you will have a full kitchen, washer/dryer, hot tub, and YOUR OWN BED (but you have to bring your own linens). One queen, one double, two single beds and one queen-sized pull-out sofa are available for any combination of nights from Sunday night, Sept. 8th, through Saturday night, Sept. 14th.

Rates are as follows:

- 2 nights, \$55 per night
- 3 nights, \$50 per night
- 4 nights, \$45 per night
- 5 nights, \$40 per night
- 6 nights, \$35 per night
- 7 nights, \$30 per night

Preference will be given to those wishing to reserve the most nights. Payment in advance will be required.

**CALL NOW FOR RESERVATIONS! CONTACT MARK ROLLINGS -- 202-296-2755 (work) or 703-406-9726 (home)**

## Shaggers on Cable TV!

Below is a tentative list of the channels that will air the shag club dance video on Pinky O'Neill's show, "Dancing Around." Airing will begin in October. More information will follow as it is known.

Fairfax Cable, Ch. 10: Mondays, 10 p.m.,  
Wednesdays, 12 noon; Fridays, 9 a.m.  
Alexandria Cable, Ch. 10.  
Jones Communications, Reston, Ch. 8.  
Montgomery Cable, MD., Ch. 23 and 49.  
Prince George's County Cable.

## New Shag Classes at Deja Vu!

You may have noticed a few changes with the **FREE SHAG LESSONS** at 7:30 on Wednesday nights. At the request of the NVSC Dance Instruction Committee, a group of ten of the club's best dancers put their heads together and came up with a four-week **LEVEL ONE** class, and an eight-week **LEVEL TWO** class. Check 'em out -- these classes are a lot of fun.

**CLASS START DATES:** These are the dates when classes start over with "Week 1."

September 4	Level 1 and Level 2B
October 2	Level 1 and Level 2A

\* \* \*

## FREE - Carolina Shag Lessons

Every Wednesday night at 7:30 sharp, **FREE BEGINNER SHAG LESSONS** are given by NVSC members at Deja Vu at Blackie's in Springfield, VA.

**Dance afterward** to beach music by **Craig Jennings** and guest deejays, 8:30-11 p.m.

## ATTENTION DANCERS!!!

The extraordinary **Susie Beaver** (full-time shag instructor and national competitor) will be here for the Virginia State Open October 4th, 5th and 6th, at the Tyson's Westpark Hotel. Susie has taught many top competitors, and is a master teacher of the technique and styling of Carolina Shag. Susie will be available for **PRIVATE LESSONS** during that weekend (cost \$45 per hour). **CALL NOW** to schedule -- Contact Janis Grimes - 703-536-7362; leave message.

\* \* \*

**AVAILABLE!!**  
**Instructional Videotapes**  
**from the**  
**Capitol Shag Classic Workshops**

**Cost: \$15**

To order, contact Valerie Swiger at 703-281-9193

## The Shagmaster Says....

- Wanna learn to shag?
- Then you'll want to get around shaggers!
- At SOS you'll see shaggin' at its coolest.....
- Attitude; Posture; Style; Presence
- Go to N. Myrtle Beach -- Home of the Shag



*From the Editor....*

It's time to **SIGN UP** for the Virginia State Open Dance Championships **NEXT MONTH**, October 4-6th at the Tyson's Westpark Hotel. **Come ON, Shaggers!!** Don't be shy -- Get Over It and Get In This Contest! Shaggers from Down South are coming again this year (!!) -- but we need a minimum of three couples in order to *have* a shag division. Last year shaggers blew the roof off and captivated the crowd! Let's make it happen again and demonstrate the wonderful variety of shag styles that we love.

Do you have an idea, a suggestion, a thought? Would you like to submit an ad, an article, a column, your *Shagger Profile*? Just let me know, okay?

*See ya Shaggin' .....*

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### !

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& North Carolina



## 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, YOU NEED THIS: S.O.S. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Send your Name, Address, Age, Phone # and  
\$35.00 -- Renewal or New Member

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Charlie Price, President (and)  
Members NVSC  
P. O. Box 5522  
McLean VA 22103

Dear Charlie and NVSC Members:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to D.J. for the first annual NVSC  
*Capitol Shag Classic!* It was a great party!

It took a tremendous amount of work and the results showed. The dance floor  
was outstanding. The staff made everyone feel welcome and glad they  
attended.

Throughout the party I heard positive comments and people saying they look  
forward to next year.

It was a pleasure to be included as one of your D.J.'s! Let me know if I can be  
of service to NVSC again.

Cordially,

  
Jerry R. Canada



