



# SHAG RAG

Shagger Newsletter



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

Vol. IV, No. 1

*Keep on Shaggin'*

January 1997

**From the President - By John Belt**

"HAPPY NEW YEAR!"

Do we mean, we are happy because the old year is over, or because the New Year starts?

I for one hope 1997 is as good to NOVA Shag Club as was 1996. Our successes were many, our failures few. We, the Board, have set our goals high and with your help we will accomplish them.

During the course of the year we will be asking for your help with some of our upcoming events. Join a committee -- be active -- help us to help you. Don't be the "somebody who thought everybody would do what anybody could, but nobody did." Our membership has really grown; however, we need to continue this growth. Invite someone to share our dance.

Most of you know I enjoy to party, and party we will. Just a reminder of upcoming events: Super Bowl Sunday; St. Patrick's Day; and our own Capital Shag Classic, all of which as you know were huge successes. So, I say, good-bye to the old and hello to the new.

**John Belt, the new President of NVSC, recently underwent back surgery, but will be back with us soon! Best Wishes for a Complete and Speedy Recovery, John!!**

*We're Havin' a Party* ..... ♪ ♪ ♪

## **SUPER BOWL PARTY**

**Sunday, January 26th,  
4 p.m. - until 10 p.m.  
VFW Hall  
McLean, Virginia**

**There will be a Special  
SHAG WORKSHOP**

with  
National Competitors  
**Larry & Shirley Jones**  
Cost: \$5

**CHILI will be served!**

- COST:** \$10 members, \$12 non-members  
\$12 at the door
- DATE:** Sunday, January 26th
- TIME:** 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.
- PLACE:** McLean VFW  
Old Dominion & Springhill Rd.
- MUSIC:** Craig Jennings and Larry Jones
- BRING:** **CALL Betty Abshire if you can make chili or bring an appetizer - 703-680-5115**
- BYOB:** Beer (\$1.00) and Set-ups (75¢) available at bar

### **SIGN UP NOW**

**DIRECTIONS:** Take Beltway 495 to Exit 12B, Dulles Airport Exit/Route 267 West. Take Route 267, the toll road (25¢). Take first Exit 17, Springhill Rd. Turn right onto Springhill Rd. Go through stop light, continue for 1.1 miles, VFW is on the right just before intersection of Springhill Rd. and Old Dominion.

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

**SHAGGERS** -- *you know who you are* -- you need to come out on Wednesday nights to shag and party with your friends at Deja Vu. Recently, we have seen a decrease in attendance by our regular members on Wednesday nights, which brings to mind a "fact of life" that sometimes seems to escape us . . . if you wanna play, you gotta pay....

In the past we've heard the sad news of sister shag clubs losing 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 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 are dedicated to our Shag Club and Beach Music (this is the *only* place where this is happening in the entire area, folks); and the cover charge is only \$2.00. That is a small price to pay in the 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 norm. 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 -- Deja Vu offers 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." The bartender, DeeJay and other employees are there working to earn a living. They are not volunteers who are there just to hang around with us. If most of the income is being generated by the patrons on the "other side" and the kids on the weekend -- and the shaggers are not spending enough to make it worthwhile to open Deja Vu and pay a doorman, a bartender and a DeeJay -- what do you think will happen?

The important thing is to **COME OUT** and **SUPPORT YOUR CLUB**; buy something -- anything -- to pay your share toward keeping that dance floor. And remember, if you wanna play, you gotta pay.

## 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:**

Leaving Deja Vu last Wednesday night, I found a wallet in the parking lot containing fifty \$1,000 bills. Should I return the wallet and money? What if it's ill-gotten gains? Maybe I should return the wallet and keep the money? Or, keep the wallet *and* the money? What should I do?? **Finders Keepers**

**Dear Keeper:**

*Call me right away . . . we need to discuss this in person.*

**Dear Gabby:**

I attended NVSC's big Capitol Shag Classic weekend party last June, and I met some really cool shaggers. How can I learn to have an attitude of coolness? --**Coolness Counts in D.C.**

**Dear D.C.:**

*Coolness cannot be taught; it is a state of being, emanating from within. It is possible, though, to absorb some degree of coolness by hanging around cool people. You can increase your coolness quotient at weekend shag events, or, best of all, at SOS in N. Myrtle Beach. Might pick up some new shag moves, too.*

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

**FOR RENT:** Nice CONDO in North 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 S.O.S.!) Valerie Swiger's condo is at CANVASBACK -- Contact Beachcomber Realty, 800-334-3798



**WINNER -- Cool Condo Award**

Our Sincere Condolences to  
**David Rodgers**, whose sister  
recently passed away.



## SHAGGERS KICK BUTT

at the  
**U.S. OPEN in Anaheim, CA!!!**

*History has been made, shaggers -- our dance is definitely on the national map!* Four shag couples competed in the *new* Carolina Shag Division (first time ever this year!) at the U.S. Open in Anaheim, California, over Thanksgiving weekend, and (yes, you guessed it!) **Brent Key & Shea Carver** won **FIRST PLACE** with a flawless classic Carolina Shag performance!! Current National Shag Champion **Michael Norris & Jackie McGee** took Second Place, and **Geoff Burdick & Melissa Goebel** finished Third.

And, with another stunning performance, **Charlie Womble & Jackie McGee** won **FIRST PLACE** in the Classic Swing Division (!!). The U.S. Open is the ultimate swing dance competition event, featuring the very best of the best dancers from all over the country. *Charlie & Jackie won over all the other dancers in a swing (not shag) category -- and believe me, all of these dancers are awesome!*

**CONGRATULATIONS, SHAGGERS!!**

## New Members in Dec.

WELCOME, new members!! Carol Embrey, Annie Foster, Tim Foster, Lavinia Gadsden, Robert Gardner, Bruce Kleiman, Tim Poe, Philip Schmidt, Linda Terry

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CONGRATULATIONS

to  
**Craig Jennings**

&  
**Heather Lovern**

on their  
*Recent Engagement!*

## 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.

*Valerie Has the Blue Dots*  
**You Need  
to Attend  
Mid-Winter Party  
in N. Myrtle Beach!**  
***See Valerie For Yours!!***

**TREASURER's Report  
by Pauline Easby-Smith**

As of January, we have \$ 1,286.95 in the bank.

*Just For Fun .....*

## HUMOR CORNER

### *The Queen's Rules*

1. *The female always makes the rules.*
2. *The rules are subject to change at any time without prior notification.*
3. *No male can possibly know all the rules. Nearly all females are born with this knowledge.*
4. *If the female suspects the male knows all the rules, she may immediately change some or all of the rules.*
5. *The female is never wrong.*
6. *If the female is wrong, it is because of a misunderstanding which was a direct result of something the male did or said wrong.*
7. *If rule #6 applies, the male must apologize immediately for causing the misunderstanding.*
8. *The female may change her mind at any given point in time.*
9. *The male must never change his mind without the expressed written consent of the female.*
10. *The female has every right to be upset at any time.*
11. *On birthdays, the female doesn't get older, she just keeps getting better and better and better .....*

# Happy, Happy Birthday

## January Birthday Babes:

- 2 - Sam Lewis
- 3 - Nola Smith
- 7 - Phyllis Schulte
- 9 - John Belt
- 9 - Janis Grimes
- 9 - Craig Jennings
- 10 - Howard Fox
- 14 - Ruth Brown
- 14 - Marc Fisher
- 14 - Dick White
- 16 - Pauline Easby-Smith
- 20 - Hanna Combs
- 21 - Libby Hendrix
- 22 - Lavinia Gadsden
- 23 - Kay Brown
- 23 - Charlie Price
- 26 - Louise Ingram
- 26 - Barbara McCaffrey
- 27 - Jim Pearce
- 29 - Norm Branca
- 29 - Ken Tyler
- 30 - Margie Bryce

## Shagging Tips

- Listen to the Beat of the Music, and Step On The Beat.
- Shag is danced on a slot in a back-and-forth movement, not in a circular movement. Imagine that your hand is on a post and you're moving toward and away from it.
- Take SMALL STEPS for better control.
- Body movement is basically from the waist down, with knees slightly bent. Do not bounce! *Glide* -- as if on skates.

### NATIONAL SHAG DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS VIDEOS

1988-1996 - \$30 each

Specify year and send check to:

Stages Video Productions, Inc.  
917 Broadway  
Myrtle Beach, SC 39577

## Shagger Profile -- Carol McAlee

Occupation: CPA

Birthday: November 20th

Hometown: Falls Church, VA

Marital Status: Divorced

Motto: If you're not happy with what you have, you won't be happy with what you'd like to have

Dream: FREE TIME

Inspiration: "Just Do It"

Bad Habit: Too many to list

Hobby: Gym, tennis, reading

Favorite Dance Tune: Beach Music

Luxury Defined: Very fine, but simple

Drink or Wine: Bourbon and Coke

TV Program: Cybill

Books at Bedside: King, Koontz, Ludlum, Wallace, Stewart

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## FREE FOR MEMBERS ONLY Instructional Shag Videos

Instructional Shag videos by **Charlie & Jackie; Sonny & Judy Carver; and Sy Creed & Dana Brown** are 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 **Karen Wagley or Trelle Shaw** - they're available at DeJa Vu on Wednesday nights.

## Shaggers Do It With Their Feet

**More Recipes Needed  
from  
More Contributors!!!**

# NVSC COOKBOOK

*The NVSC Cookbook, First Edition, is in progress and could be published soon and available for purchase. However, in order for this effort to be successful, we need more participation from additional contributors! We've all been busy during the Holidays, but don't be left out! There is still time for EVERYONE to be included -- we're waiting for YOUR submission!*

**Idea:** A collection of the favorite recipes of NVSC members. The money we raise will be used to increase the NVSC Treasury.

**Take a Minute:** We have some *good cooks* in this club, as we have seen at our covered dish parties. **Come on, Guys -- and Gals -- send in your favorite recipes and we'll do the rest.** (Of course, we'll list your name with your recipe, so you'll be properly credited for your culinary masterpiece.)

**Cost:** A nice, handy volume will be available for a *pittance* -- a few dollars, (@ \$5). You could buy several to use as gifts!

**Need:** Your favorite recipe (or two) -- ASAP!

**Please Submit:** To Janis Grimes, 703-536-7362.  
*Come On Y'All! Please Hurry -- Do it Now!!*

Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery to **Larry Boyer**, who was recently hospitalized due to surgery. Hurry back to us soon, Larry!

And Best Wishes also to **Barry Wingard** for continued healing from recent knee surgery. Barry drove all the way down here from Carlisle, PA, just to be with us on a Wednesday night last month!

## THANK YOU . . . by Patricia Parrott

A great big "THANK YOU" to all of you who brought toys for the children. In the name of our shag club, we gave four full bags to Ho, Ho, Ho, the group collecting toys for needy children in Alexandria. Through the giving of the gift to the child, maybe the child also received the message that we care. Thanks also to the committee members who helped: **Trelle Shaw, Donna Liebowitz and Janis Grimes.**

## National Shag Dance Championships!

The Preliminaries for the 1997 National Shag Dance Championships will be held January 24th & 25th at the Beach Music Cafe at Broadway At The Beach, Myrtle Beach, SC. Admission is \$8 per night. This new club is the home of the Shaggers Hall of Fame, and contains beach music and shag memorabilia. **Chris Pax & Bill Hopkins** will be there, competing with approximately 70 couples trying to qualify for the Nationals in March. **GOOD LUCK, Bill & Chris!!!**

**The 1996-97 National Shag Dance Championships Dance Team** performed this year at half-time of the Charlotte Hornets/ Chicago Bulls game on Dec. 19th. The team will perform again on June 27th at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, CA, for the 1997 Feather Awards, the dance community's equivalent to the Oscars or Emmys. Other appearances will include the Beach Ball Classic; as an opening act for the Gatlin Brothers; the Carolinas RE/MAX Convention and of course, the preliminaries and finals of the National Shag Dance Championships. For the fifth year, the team will be captained by nine-time National Champions **Charlie Womble & Jackie McGee**. Other members include 1996 overall champions **Michael Norris & LeAnn Best, Ernie & Gail Holmes, Geoffrey Burdick & Melissa Goebel** and **Rick & Maureen Little** from North Carolina. Completing the team are **Grayson Smith & Jessica McAlhany** and **Bill & Brenda Barber** from South Carolina.

*"Well, it's true that shaggers know how to have fun; they share an intense joy of life, respect for their heritage, and a fierce loyalty to family and friends."  
-- Bo Bryant, author of "Shag, the Dance Legend"*

## The Shagmaster Says....

- Shag is More Than Footwork! It's . . . a Southern Dance of Style and Grace....
- Remember APSP: Attitude, Posture, Style, Presence
- PRACTICE the Basic: Up Together Back, Triple in Place, Rock Step. 1 & 2; 3 & 4; 5, 6 .....



*From the Editor....*

Best Wishes to All for Every Success, and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!!

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' .....*

