



SHAG RAG

Shagger Newsletter



Dedicated to the Preservation of the Carolina Shag and Beach Music

Vol. IV, No. 2

Keep on Shaggin'

February 1997

From the President - By John Belt

I've had the opportunity in the past week or so to talk with our members about some of my concerns:

Why are our Wednesdays dropping off?
How can we increase our membership?
How can we increase attendance at our functions?

Some of the answers scare me. Cliques. Snobs. Good dancers not willing to dance with beginners.

We need to change the answers. The question is how? At least one answer lies in our purpose, our reason for being: to preserve the dance by increasing the number of people who not only know the Shag but the number who love the dance and the music.

As President, my responsibility is to do everything I can do to make this club the best it can be for our members. But, I can't do it alone. I need your help. Talk to me or any member of the Board and let us know what we can do as an organization to make our club better and more attractive to shaggers in Northern Virginia.

A special thanks goes to **Betty Abshire, Eddy Farmer, Craig Jennings**, and to all members who provided food for our Super Bowl Party, and all members who attended.

I thank you.

We're Havin' a Party ♪ ♪ ♪

VALENTINE'S DANCE

Sunday, February 16th
5 p.m. - until?

Kilroy's
Ravensworth Shopping Center
Braddock Rd. & Beltway

FREE BUFFET

featuring

Pig Roast

Oysters on the half shell
Chicken Wings

Buy Your Drinks at the Bar!

BEACH MUSIC

by

CRAIG JENNINGS

NO COVER CHARGE

Everyone Welcome!!

INFO: Call John Belt or Betty Abshire

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Board Mem.	David Rodgers	703-239-8978

News/Info -- please contact:
Editor: Janis Grimes, 703-536-7362

Get Ready! . . . by Patricia Parrott

Still those dancin' feet! Get ready to sit down!
There's good news comin'!

Final editing has been completed on the shag video for Pinky O'Neill's TV production "Dancing Around." There was enough footage to make two 30-minute segments, Part 1 and Part 2. They can be shown back-to-back or singularly at the discretion of the cable company.

Jones Communication will air the videos first because they are the sponsoring cable company. Part 1 will be shown on February 18th and 20th at 9 p.m., and Part 2 will show during the first week in March on Channel 8 in Reston only.

After that, other local cable companies will be sent copies of the videos for their scheduling. As this takes place, I hope to inform all your dancin' feet channels and times of broadcast. That information is not known at this time.

I understand that the videos look good with lots of good general dancing highlighted. The shag club should get good coverage from these videos as they are aired about the area. It's possible our dancin' feet will be joined by other dancin' feet as interested as we are in dancing Carolina Shag to the beat of beach music.

Our thanks to Jones Communication of Reston and Pinky O'Neill for letting it happen.

(Oh my, I hope I didn't have tissue stuck in the heel of my shoe!)

Shaggers Do It With Their Feet

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

Shagger Profile -- Gayle Brock

Occupation: Diversity Planning Associate
American Red Cross

Birthday: December 14

Hometown: Military brat

Marital Status: Single

Motto: "I'm not getting older; I'm getting better"

Dream: World Peace / Happiness

Inspiration: Those who persevere

Bad Habit: Candor

Hobby: In-line skating; reading; listening to music

Favorite Dance Tune: Play That Funky Music. . .

Luxury Defined: Driving a Jaguar

Drink or Wine: Cabernet Sauvignon

TV Program: Seinfeld

Books at Bedside: Lani Gannier / Laura Esquivel

Last Words: "Please don't let me be misunderstood"

FREE **FOR MEMBERS ONLY** **Instructional Shag Videos**

Instructional Shag videos by **Charlie & Jackie; Sonny & Judy Carver; Sy Creed & Dana Brown;** and **Mirror Steps** from the **Virginia Beach Shag Club** 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.

Happy, Happy Birthday

February Birthday Babes:

- 1 - Dan Shames
- 1 - Len Surniak
- 3 - Mary Atienza
- 5 - David Loeb
- 6 - Dee Bassett
- 6 - Shannon Lewis
- 6 - Carol Vann
- 7 - Sara Brodsky
- 8 - James Raney
- 9 - Jeanette Bright
- 18 - Fred Fritz
- 18 - Jacqueline Lindner
- 19 - Jim Taylor
- 20 - Carmie Mazzan
- 20 - Howard Weiner
- 22 - Frank Hale
- 25 - Norman Beattie



\$SAVE \$5

**IT'S TIME TO ORDER
SOS CARDS!!!**

NVSC members can purchase SOS cards at a discount rate of \$30 through our club. This is a benefit of your NVSC membership and the club's membership in the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs. Your SOS card must be purchased through NVSC to receive this discount.. See Valerie to order yours. She must send in the order for all cards by March 1st. You can purchase your SOS card for \$30 at Deja Vu, or wait and pay \$35 at the beach!!!

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.

*"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."*

New Members in January

WELCOME, new members!! Barry Fine, Fred Griffin, Diane Moody and Fabio Tribino

...



CONGRATULATIONS

to

Larry Camp

&

Mary Taylor

who were

Recently Married!

NATIONAL SHAG DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS VIDEOS

1988-1996 - \$30 each

Specify year and send check to:

Stages Video Productions, Inc.
917 Broadway
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

TREASURER's Report by Pauline Easby-Smith

As of January, we have \$1,336 in the bank.



New Shag Classes at Deja Vu!

YOU WILL NOTICE a few changes in the FREE SHAG LESSONS at 7:30 on Wednesday nights. Chris Pax, NVSC Dance Instruction Committee head, has put together a group of the club's best dancers to come up with a standardized LEVEL ONE class, open to everyone, and an intermediate LEVEL TWO class (available to Members Only). Basics are emphasized in the Level 1 class, and some cool new steps have been added to the Level 2 class. Check 'em out -- these classes are a lot of fun!

PLEASE NOTE: Level 2 instruction is available FREE to MEMBERS ONLY

AND THE WINNER IS . . .

CONGRATULATIONS to Melody Wayland and Sherry Winter, who got lucky and won the Super Bowl pool at our Super Bowl Party last month!

Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery to Vesta Jones, who has had some problems with those dancing' feet recently, but is now on the mend!

How To Get Rid of an Unwanted Dance Partner . . . by Howard Christie

"No."
"We don't dance well together."
"It's a waste of time."
"I am older than I look."
"I don't have to tell you that."
"I don't want to."
"I have a boy friend."
"I will only go dancing with you."
"No, it wasn't any good."
"Give me money. Give me money."
"No."
"-- I'm a lady --"
"What's that dance you do?"
"You complained."
"We're separated."
"I'd rather drink."
"I was just getting ready to leave."
"-- You're too fast-paced for me."

HEY!!!

Recipes Still Needed from More Contributors for the NVSC COOKBOOK

The NVSC Cookbook, First Edition, will be published soon and available for purchase. However, in order for this effort to be as successful as possible, we need more participation from additional contributors!! 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.

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.

The Shagmaster Says....

- The basic step is all you need to know, but it's not all there is to the shag.
- Shag embodies an attitude of coolness, a youthful fun-loving, happy atmosphere, and lots of camaraderie.
- The heart of shag is the improvisation, the individuality and style earned through long hours of practice.
- 1 & 2; 3 & 4; 5, 6.....



From the Editor....

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 Shaggie'

S

A Thing of Beauty and a Joy Forever

by John Harper, The Beach Shaggers of Birmingham

In all my dancing days I have never seen anything like this dance. It gave me goose bumps the first time I saw it and it still does today.

It is so smooth, so seductive, and so sexy that it is no small wonder it hooks so many people instantly. If there is a more captivating, more beautiful sight in all the world than a man and woman shuffling up and back on the hardwood to the hypnotic beat of rhythm and blues; spinning like a top in slow motion in the pivot; or touching head to toe in a sultry, twisting bellyroll. I do not know what that sight is. Surely shag is the queen of dances.

The beauty of this magical dance spans a broad spectrum of styles. That beauty is as splendid on one end of the spectrum as it is on the other. On one end we have the Hall of Fame'ers and Living Legends, to whom those who love shag owe so much. The grace and style of these dancers is sometimes not to be believed, but always to be imitated as best one can. On the other end we have the beginners where beauty lies in their sudden addiction and seemingly insatiable desire to learn it all - at once!

We have the competition shaggers whose talents are so awe inspiring and who do so much to publi-

cize the dance. The complexity of their steps is often mind-boggling; their shagging, nothing short of a rhythm and blues ballet.

Somewhere in the midst of all these shaggers are my favorites - the multitude of no-names, veterans of the dance from burgs and hamlets of the Carolinas that most of us never heard of. These are the foot soldiers of shag, who use only a few mirrors or fancy leads, but whose styles can be so unique and intriguing. A pause here, a shift there, a soft touch, and a certain look all make their shagging eternally interesting to the old-timers and instantly captivating to the newcomers. Comfortable in their own abilities, these no-names already know what takes us new shaggers years to learn: the basic beauty of this dance is not so much in fancy, complex steps and turns, but in smoothness and style, the ability to lead and follow well, and using the right move at the right time in the right music.

Reduced to its very essence, the real fun in all this is in the beauty of the people who do it. Shagging would have sufficient rewards all by itself. However, there is so much more to shag than just dancing. Shagging is a fellowship - a fellowship of the best

friends one could ever have. I know of no other endeavor where so many people can come together and simply enjoy to their heart's content what they have in common.

When you think about it, that is so unlike what happens in the rest of our harsh, sometimes dog-eat-dog world where it seems we focus on our differences and even exploit them. In the fellowship of shagging, it really does not matter where you live, what you do for a living, who you know, or how much power you have. The only things that matter are that you love this dance, the people who dance it, and the music they dance it to! Keats said, "A thing of beauty is a joy forever." Keats must have been a shagger, because this dance is beautiful and it is indeed a joy forever! I do not know how long "forever" will be for me, but I do know that as long as I am able to shag, or merely able to watch others do it, I will be forever young in my heart - meaning simply that a part of me, indeed my spirit and my very soul, will never grow old.

This article was reprinted with the Author's kind permission - from the Spring 1993 Carefree Times.



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January 7, 1997

Ms. Pat Parrott
"Northern Virginia Shag Club"
2406 Mill Heights
Herndon, Virginia 20171

Dear Ms. Parrott,

On behalf of the many children in need in Alexandria I would like to thank you all for your generous donations of toys. The items go directly to the children in need.

HO HO HO is assisting more organizations this year. Therefore, help such as yours is vital.

Thank you for helping to "bring cheer to needy children".

Sincerely,

Dawn Von Thurn Nelson
Dawn Von Thurn-Nelson
President

Charlie & Jackie
PRODUCTION



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