



SHAG RAG

Shagger Newsletter



Dedicated to the Preservation of the Carolina Shag and Beach Music

Vol. IV, No. 5

Keep on Shaggin'

May 1997

From the President - By John Belt

I can't believe a fourth of our year has come and gone. As your president, I think of what we have accomplished and all the work that lies ahead.

Since January, we have scheduled a Super Bowl Party; Sunday Socials at Kilroy's; workshops with Sam & Sarah West; our upcoming second Capital Shag Classic; Pauline and Vesta represented us at the Winter Workshop; and Valerie and I attended the ACSC meeting at SOS in Myrtle Beach. In the making we have another workshop in late summer and a summer picnic, so you can see there is a lot of work in preparing for the rest of the year.

There are times when I fail to thank the people behind the scenes -- thanks to our great dancers who represent us at all the various competitions and, by the way, they are constantly placing either 2nd, 3rd, or 4th; to our Board Members who give their time, energy, and sometimes money; and to all of our club members who give us their support, names I will not go into because there are far too many to thank.

Remember to get your Capital Shag Classic tickets early -- they are selling fast. While at SOS, many people came up to us and said that they will be attending!

Look to future newsletters, we have a lot of fun things planned for you.

Keep on shaggin', see you on the floor.

Thanks to Chris Pax, who has donated \$100 to the club's treasury, earned by conducting Carolina Shag workshops for the Hollywood Ballroom crowd in March and April. Chris will teach another workshop there on Saturday, May 31st.

NVSC's SECOND Annual CAPITAL SHAG CLASSIC

Featuring Great ABSC Deejays
Butch Metcalf

Jerry Canada • Craig Jennings
June 27, 28 & 29, 1997

FREE SHAG WORKSHOPS
with

ELLEN TAYLOR
LARRY & SHIRLEY JONES

FREE ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BUFFETS ALL WEEKEND

Howard Johnson Hotel **Request Special NVSC Rate
5821 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria, VA **Rooms \$53** (1-4 persons)
Reservations: 703-329-1400 Beltway Exit #1, Rt. 1 So.

Advanced Hotel Reservation Cut-off May 31

Weekend Tickets \$45 - Call 1-800-SHAGGER to order
Buy Your Tickets Early -- Only 250 Tickets Will Be Sold!

For additional information, call Charlie Price at 703-790-0783

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

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Road Trips With Gypsies

Our First SOS

By Audrey Borja (with a little help from Don Borja)

As part of the delegation from NVSC, we were off to join in the SOS fun and dancing gala in North Myrtle Beach! How exciting it was to actually arrive in the land of serious Carolina shaggers. We were as pumped up as could be -- given that we'd been taking our lessons every Wednesday night Very Seriously in order to "hold our own." Don, with his hand in a cast after breaking it before our trip, was a real challenge for both of us . . . but being from the Northern Virginia Shag Club, we toughed it out.

Upon arrival at the beach it was relatively quiet . . . since it was the first weekend of the 11-day safari. Good for us, since we had to assimilate and gear up to go with the flow. After getting settled in our motel, we couldn't wait to check out the clubs. We went out and poked our heads in about five clubs. We saw **Larry & Shirley Jones**, with Larry deejaying with some great sounds. They made us feel right at home. It turned out that we preferred to spend more time at the club called "Ducks" and its offspring "Ducks Too." When we stepped into the clubs we were amazed, to say the least, at the dancing. Talk about styles of shag . . . there were so many that we actually made it a challenge to find what we were so artfully taught as "the Basic." No problem, after studying the various pros, we did find the Basic and all of the other steps that we've been taught. The only difference was that they did some "fancy" add-ons to what we know as the fundamentals. It looked real good! Of course, we were excited to go back and try some moves. We felt pleased too about our skills learned from our Northern Virginia teachers -- keep in your slot, take small steps, and do not "wiggle" (a long-time bad habit that many of us have to break). We danced and danced with friendliness, high spirits and overall hometown comforts all around us. The people that we met, chatted with, and bumped into on the dance floor could not have been nicer. Several NVSC members began to arrive, too -- **Vesta, Pauline, and Donna**, making us feel strong in numbers. Even Don -- cast and all -- danced with Vesta. Way to go, Vesta!

The hospitality continued when we went to the shoe store. The dear folks that own the shop extended a cordial welcome to us -- so much that we felt like spending the day with them. Also, while we were there, several other shaggers came in and joined in the visit to what appeared to be a reunion in a hometown. The not surprising result of the visit was

that Don got a new pair of shoes and I got "3" -- just couldn't make up my mind....

Of course, all get-aways include food, and Myrtle Beach has lots of it. Seafood was plentiful as expected . . . so we indulged, but did not overdo it so we would be in prime condition for our shagging.

Now before ending our account of the excitement, we must share with you another discovery that we made. For a refreshing beach walk/run, we went out on the beach about 8:00 one morning to catch the breeze and enjoy the waves coming in. Well, we saw what could be the rudiments of the SHAG. The seagulls along the shore were prancing with their feet -- as in 1&2, 3&4, 5, 6, and then dipping their heads in the sand to capture any moving life that they disturbed with their prancing. Don and I looked at each other and said, "That's the Basic!" We were so excited -- because it was the "natural" answer to what we've all been so dutifully doing and enjoying -- and we felt like we had really found a "back to nature" approach. So, we realized with "the seagull natural" -- there is no limit to where this could go.

Dancing, the beach, good food and being in the midst of all of the high-spirited folks were truly a good break for us. Our confidence level for our shagging has improved, only because we danced against some strong odds . . . the inhibiting cast on Don's hand, and just being among such incredibly pro dancers -- you might say, we were alert! We held our own and left the beach feeling proud of our club, our teachers, and our own members. We certainly appreciate even more the meaning of "peacocks."

What an experience! Our first SOS is definitely NOT our last! So, as we reap the rewards of attending an SOS, we can look forward to hosting our Capital Shag Classic event in June and rolling out the carpet for the shaggers. We have a great club and we, too, can show our hospitality by making other shaggers feel the comforts of our hometown.


CONGRATULATIONS

to

Trell Shaw

&

Harold Stevens

**who became Engaged at SOS,
One Year After Meeting at SOS!!!!**

Shagger Profile -- Jeff Zaun

Nickname: Zule

Occupation: Naval Flight Officer

Birthday: June 30

Hometown: Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Marital Status: Single

Self Portrait: A man in the arenas

Motto: Practice, practice, practice.....

Dream:: My first dream was to face the enemy bravely in battle: Did it, I actually did it. My next dream is to have a daughter and learn to play piano with her. My first step will be getting a date.

Inspiration: A French economic historian named Ferdinand Braudel; and a girl who finds it easy to laugh.

Bad Habit: Tobacco and tough humor

Favorite Dance Tune: I'm a Delbert McClinton fan

Hobby: Reading

Luxury Defined: Reading quietly with some who can share the joy of a great book and a silent sense of connection

Drink or Wine: I love Scotch whiskey and French wine; but, I need a good waiter to select it because I really can't taste the difference

TV Program: Movies

Books at Bedside: Lots

Last Words: Remember, Ginger Rogers did everything Fred Astaire did, but she did it backwards, and in high heels

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COMMITTEES and DIRECTORS :

Capital Shag Classic	Charlie Price
Charity	Pauline Easby-Smith
Communications	David Rodgers
Dance	Janis Grimes
Hospitality	Vesta Jones
Membership	Valerie Swiger
Music	Craig Jennings
Newsletter	Janis Grimes
Promotions, Sales	John Belt
Social	Betty Abshire; Joan McKinney

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'm 5'5" but my girlfriend is 6'2". I think Shag is a neat dance and would like to learn it -- but do you think I'd ever be able to lead someone who's almost a foot taller than I? (Maybe we'd be better off doing something else as a couple -- like bowling!) **Short Stuff**

Dear Stuff:

Well, bowling is fun, but it cannot take the place of shaggin'. So what if she's taller? Just watch it on those lady underarm turns -- it won't look so cool if she's the one who has to duck!

Dear Gabby:

I've had about three months of lessons at Deja Vu, and I think I'm hooked on this shag thing. My next move is to get out of my sneakers and into a pair of dance shoes. What color shoe most impresses the ladies? I've seen 'em in black, tan, red and white. What color excites you?

Jeepers

Dear Creeper:

This shag thing? Please, wear red -- so you'll stand out!

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

Love

Love is friendship that has caught fire.
It is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving.
It is loyalty through good and bad times.
It settles for less than perfection and make allowances for human weaknesses.
Love is content with the present, it hopes for the future and it doesn't brood over the past.
It's the day-in and day-out chronicle of irritations, problems, compromises, small disappointments, big victories and working toward common goals.
If you have love in your life, it can make up for a great many things that are missing.
If you don't have love in your life, no matter what else there is, it's not enough.

(Psssst! Pass It On!!)

*Next SOS... NVSC members
will rendezvous at the Barrel
(formerly known as the Pad,
across from the Boulevard Grill)
at 9 p.m. each night...*



The Roving Shag Reporter

What's Happening . . . by Valerie Swiger

On April 19, 1997, the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs held its second meeting of 1997 during Spring SOS in North Myrtle Beach, SC. Your representatives were **John Belt** and **Valerie Swiger**.

NVSC is one of almost 100 clubs that belong to the ACSC. Total membership is 12,059. That's an awful lot of shaggers.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEETING:

WEB page effective June 1 --www.shagdance.com

Design contest -- Each SOS week has its own tee shirt. Are you artistically inclined?? Would you like to submit a design for the Fall SOS shirt? Designs must be submitted at the Summer ACSC workshop July 11-13 in Charlotte. Someone from our Board will attend, so just give us your design.

July 11-13, ACSC Summer Workshop and weekend party, Charlotte, N.C. -- Tickets are \$35 per person. **NO SMOKING** in the dance area -- this is a first!! Flyers will be out next month.

Fall SOS -- How would you like to win \$10,000? This is not a typo. Take a chance -- buy a raffle ticket for \$20. **John Belt** has the tickets! You do not need to be at SOS to win! If our club sells the winning ticket, the club will receive \$100. Support your club, support SOS, support ACSC, and **maybe win big!!**

December 31, 1999 -- YES, 1999! A **BIG** party is in the planning stages for New Year's Eve, 1999, in North Myrtle Beach, SC. Dancing in the street. Fireworks. Seems like a long way off, but an event of this size takes that long to plan! Where will you be at the Turn of the Century? Keep the date in mind, and we'll keep you updated on this event!

SOS Carefree Times -- The newspaper published for SOS week. Our own ***Patricia Parrott's** article "Cliques Happen" was reprinted in the **Carefree Times**. It's a great article. It first appeared in our **Shag Rag**, March 1997. ***Golden Keyboard Award Winner!**

Personal Note -- I had a great time. The weather was chilly, but the dancing was great. Never enough dance space, but what can you expect? Got to know some of our club members a little better (I counted 30

of us), ran into friends from other clubs, heard some really dirty jokes, took a walk on the beach with a dear friend, tried a butterscotch shooter (!), shared my condo with close friends, made it home safely.

NVSC Logo Clothing

Polo style shirts with the NVSC logo embroidered on them are now available to order. Arrangements have been made with a new vendor in Springfield, VA, to produce the shirts with the club's logo on the left chest.

Orders for short sleeve and long sleeve mesh and jersey fabric polo shirts are being taken from 9-9:30 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday nights of each month during the dance sessions at Blackie's.

If you want logo shirts in time to wear at the Capital Shag Classic, the shirts must be ordered no later than May 14th to be delivered by June 25th.

Prices for the shirts* are as follows:	
Short sleeve pique knit polo style -	\$25.00
Short sleeve jersey knit polo style -	25.00
Long sleeve pique knit polo style -	28.00
Long sleeve jersey knit polo style -	28.00

*Shirts may be ordered in three colors (white, black and jade). Shirts are available in sizes Medium - 2 XL. Please inquire about additional costs for 2 XL sizes. A first name monogram may be added to the right chest area for an additional charge of \$3.00.

Checks or cash for the FULL amount of the items ordered will be taken by **David Rodgers** and **Jerry Barker**. Make checks payable to No. VA. Shag Club. Receipts will be issued when the order is placed.

When the shirts are received from the vendor, you will be notified that your shirts will be available for pick-up at Blackie's the following Wednesday night.

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

Shaggers Do It With Their Feet

This newsletter is interrupted to bring you an important update:

N. Myrtle Beach, S.C. -- Late-breaking news from SOS..... **Doug Levitas**, nationally known R&B deejay "**The Gator**," is the latest NVSC member to be accepted in the Association of Beach and Shag Club Deejays. Doug was sponsored by ABSC deejays **Judy Collins** and **Larry Edwards**, and is proud to be included in the best group of deejays in the world. *Congratulations, Doug!!*

And, we have another ABSC deejay who has joined our club, none other than **Larry Jones**, of **Larry & Shirley Jones**, the National Competitors and popular instructors! Larry & Shirley have both been nominated this year for Shell Awards as Favorite SOS Dance Partners!! The winners of the 1997 Shell Awards will be announced at Jackie & Charlie's SOS Grand National Dance Competitions in Atlanta this month! *Good Luck, Larry & Shirley!!*

And speaking of nominations, **Jitterbug Magazine** says that member **Craig Hutchinson**, local swing guru and member of the Living Legends Hall of Fame, has been nominated for a 1997 Feather Award as the Most Popular East Coast Dance Teacher. To be nominated for a Feather Award, which parallels Academy Awards and Olympic Medals in level of accomplishment and recognition in the field of dance, is a huge honor. *Good Luck, Craig!!*

New Members in April

WELCOME, new members!! Linda Jean Harrill, Patty Hoegel, Larry Jones, Shirley Jones, Evelyn Metaxas, Douglas Price, Cecile Rocek, Peter Soriano, Ralph Tedesco, Vicki Tedesco

Happy, Happy Birthday

May Birthday Babies:

- 1 - Raili Tate
- 2 - Robert Beard
- 3 - Fred Cronkhite
- 5 - Rick Mesmer
- 5 - Ray Wagaman
- 6 - Barry Fine
- 9 - Gary Crowden
- 11 - Ron Toms
- 15 - Joe McLaughlin
- 15 - Juanita McNamara
- 15 - Carol Sullivan
- 18 - Mary Davis
- 18 - Donna Harrington
- 19 - Bob Lutz
- 20 - John Gitzen
- 20 - Joan McKinney
- 23 - Celie Griffith
- 24 - Ann Shimel
- 28 - David Blanco
- 30 - Tom Lufkin

Sincere Condolences
to Club President **John Belt**,
whose Father recently passed away.

Northern Virginia Shag Club On The Web!

<http://www.sbolnet.com/shag>

NVSC has hit the World Wide Web at <http://www.sbolnet.com/shag>, thanks to **Vesta Jones**. Come and visit . . . submit comments, suggestions and articles to include to vjones@sbolnet.com. It will take all of us to make it a really good site. I accept volunteers to improve it, write for it, design for it ... anything to make it a notable shag site ... we are among the first very few shag clubs to have a site, although all of us at the ACSC Winter Workshop were encouraged to consider developing one.

NVSC Members Shag at ASDC

Our club was well represented at this year's American Swing Dance Championships held April 5-6 at the Meadowlands Sheraton in New Jersey. For the second year, there were five couples dancing in the new Carolina Shag Division. **Bill Hopkins & Chris Pax** took 3rd place; **Dan Shames & Janis Grimes** finished 4th; **Ed Magin** (club member from South Jersey) & national competitor **Melissa Goebel** came in 5th (*they just met that afternoon, and did great!*). Superstars **Michael Norris & Ellen Taylor** won 1st place, with **Trey McCants & Shea Carver** finishing 2nd. A splendid time was had by all. Congratulations to all dancers!

NOTICE Members Only!!

NVSC Membership Rosters are updated and available to Members for only \$2.00.
See **Valerie** for your copy.
