



NORTHERN VIRGINIA SHAG CLUB

Shag Rag

Shagger Newsletter

Dedicated to the Preservation of the Carolina Shag and Beach Music

Vol. IV, No. 6

Keep on Shaggin'

June 1997

From the President - By John Belt

It's PARTY TIME! Have you bought your ticket yet for the Classic? We have planned a great party for you, and we are going to have one heck of a good time. We have the same caterer as last year, and the entertainment arranged by **Charlie Price** will surprise and delight you.

NVSC Members Note: Please remember to meet, greet and warmly welcome the out-of-town shaggers and other local dancers who will be at the Classic. It is up to each of us, not just a few, to help make EVERYONE feel like honored guests. We want our party to be the BEST party they've ever attended.

See you at the Classic!!

**DO YOU HAVE YOUR TICKET
FOR THE CAPITAL SHAG
CLASSIC WEEKEND???**
**DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S
SOLD OUT -**

Get your ticket now!

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NEEDED

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NVSC's SECOND Annual

CAPITAL SHAG CLASSIC

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Butch Metcalf

Jerry Canada · Craig Jennings

June 27, 28 & 29, 1997

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with

ELLEN TAYLOR

LARRY & SHIRLEY JONES

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The Roving Shag Reporter

The Die Is Cast . . . By Don Borja (with a little help from Audrey Borja)

Well . . . I thought . . . *what am I going to do?* With a prior commitment on the same day of the Carolina Shag Workshop. . . *I must keep the commitment.* It is important, especially when it's a gentleman's agreement and a hand shake, because those kinds of deals place your honor at stake. So, reluctantly, I said to my shaggin' half, Audrey, "You go to the workshop without me, and maybe later in the evening at the Sheraton dance you can show me the new steps."

Off we went in two different directions with two different tasks to accomplish -- I was going to build fishing habitats for the fishing club I belong to, and Audrey was off to learn the new dance steps taught by the National Shag Champions, Sam and Sarah West. Since my arm was in a cast, I did not know how much help I would be to my fishing club (but a commitment is a commitment). Also, since I had to miss the dancing workshop, I tried to convince myself I would not have fun anyway -- again because of my cast. So, I brushed the regrets aside and did what I had to do -- make homes for poor little fishes. But, believe me. . . I wished I could be at Blackie's learning the new steps from the National Champs. Oh well, I thought, at least I could watch them dance that night.

Later that night, Audrey talked my head off on the way to the Sheraton Hotel. She went on and on saying how well Sam and Sarah West danced together. When we arrived at the Sheraton, things were really in a super dance mode; the DJ was playing the music non-stop; the beat of the rhythm was great; and, there were dancers everywhere. Needless to say, I felt the groove of the music and tried to dance, cast and all. Audrey, bless her heart, tried to deal with my cast, which not only covered my arm, but also my hand. Doing turns with it on was painful for me. I notice Audrey's fingers were getting banged up from my cast and we decided to sit down and nurture "our wounds" and just watch people dance.

Lo and behold, Sarah West walked up to us. Audrey introduced me to the "1996 National Shag Champion." I was impressed! Sarah smiled and said, "Pleased to meet you, Don, and -- my goodness, what did you do to your hand?" Trying to be cool, I said, "Audrey would not let go of my hand when we did a super pivot." Sarah laughed. She seemed to enjoy my humor. Then I told her the truth about my dumb accident trying to start my lawnmower and ending up with the broken bone in my hand. I also told her how inhibited I was in doing certain turns in our dance. I said to

Sarah, "I guess I just feel kind of down -- not being able to "strut my stuff like a fine Carolina peacock" (*yeah Don, like you're really in full plume. . . but, at least I've mastered the rock step and know how to act cool -- which is shagger's trait*). No sooner did I finish my coc. act, than Audrey said to Sarah, "Dance with Don." I said, "You've got to be kidding! I'm barely in the intermediate class of our club," (I definitely blew my coolness in desperation) "and my arm is in a cast, and. . . and. . ." Sarah said, "Your foot is not in a cast." Well, we got out on the dance floor and, needless to say, I was in heaven. . . shagging NOT under a Carolina moon, BUT with a Carolina STAR! Sarah said, "Shaggers will always find a way to dance, and see. . . here we are. . . let's pivot!" Boy! Was I on Cloud 9 -- or should I say Clouds 1&2, 3&4, 5, 6.

There in one brief moment, in less than the three minutes it takes to play a record, Sarah West displayed what a "Champion" she is. A Champion, not only on the dance floor, but off the dance floor as well. I was struck by her demeanor -- it was true to the characteristics of the shagging tradition. She was, of course, friendly and poised, with a truly genuine grace, had a generous smile, and a natural all encompassing Southern charm. Call it shag protocol, or Carolina etiquette, but it was the inherent authenticity that came across to me -- integrity, respect, and enthusiasm -- personal traits that are unassuming in shaggers -- for the dance itself and for a dance partner, individual styles, or coolness-beginner or "pro." I was even more convinced that all of these special characteristics make shagging wonderful and fun.

So, I guess I will never forget the Carolina Star that night; I actually got to Shag with a National Champion! And, although I didn't get to watch Sarah and Sam perform that evening, I am so excited that I got to dance with a Champion! And, more importantly, my impression of Sarah was that she is not only a Champion of the Shag, but she has the heart of a Champion, too. . . Yes, in my book, Sarah West, "You are one fine Southern Lady!"

We stayed at the Sheraton until after midnight. Audrey and I said good-bye to our fellow club members and down the elevator we went. Things were still jumping as we went out the door of the Sheraton to our car. Once we got out on Rt. 395 heading home, Audrey started talking about how much fun we had. . . only I noticed the tone of her voice was different. . . it was the way she pronounced her words. . . she spoke melodically, with a sort of "charming Southern drawl!" Talk about being cool! Well, I did meet her in the southern part of Virginia Beach. . . y'all!

=====

Shagger Profile-- Larry Jones

Nickname: L.T.

Occupation: Owner of Printing By Design

Birthday: December 14

Hometown: Chesapeake, VA

Marital Status: M

Motto: Live and let live

Dream: To live the rest of my life happy
and in North Myrtle Beach

Inspiration: Shirley (Personal)
Sam and Sarah West (Dancers)

Bad Habit: Too many to mention
(Shirley says that's a cop out)

Favorite Dance Tune: You are kidding, right?
Where do I start?

Hobby: Shagging, golf and Shirley

Drink or Wine: Shooters

TV Program: Andy Griffith; ER; Homicide, etc.

Shagger Profile -- Shirley Jones

Nickname: Legs

Occupation: Co-owner of Printing By Design
and Mid-Town Executive Suites

Birthday: March 16

Hometown: Richmond, VA

Marital Status: M

Self Portrait: Willing to help anybody
through a difficult time

Motto: Accept me as I am, so I can learn
what I can become

Dream: To live full time at O.D.

Inspiration: Larry and my daughter, Faye

Bad Habit: Procrastination

Favorite Dance Tune: Yeah, right. Got an
hour?

Hobby: Reading, clowning around

Luxury Defined: Relaxing on a soft sofa,
reading a great book, wearing
something made of silk

Drink or Wine: Bourbon and coke, shooters

TV Program: ER; Homicide, Law and Order

Books at Bedside: Anything by LaVyrle
Spencer or Sydney Sheldon

Last Words: Remember me with love and
laughter



*Congratulations
and
Best Wishes
Craig Hutchinson
&
Lucy Renzi
on their recent marriage!!*

(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...*

=====
ROOM TO SHARE? Need a roommate for the
Capital Shag Classic, or the Virginia Beach Bash?
Please Call Dick White - 410-546-2210
=====

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 |

RED ALERT!

THE COMMODITY MARKET PLYWOOD FUTURES -- Up or Down? by Gary Salpini

On Saturday, May 10th, John Belt, Charlie Price and I visited our dance floor to survey its current condition in preparation for the Capital Shag Classic. *Unfortunately, we found that we had LOST our storage facility(!) and the floor was at EXTREME RISK!!* It was apparent that we needed to retrieve the floor at once.

On Sunday, May 11th, John Belt, his son-in-law Peter and grandson Zach, Dave Rapson, Valerie Swiger and I picked up the floor (in three truck loads) and transported it to safety. It is currently in temporary storage in Fairfax until the CSC.

We are in **DESPERATE** need of a safe place to store the floor. Can YOU help? Not a lot of space is needed -- the floor will store in a footprint space of about 4' by 8' by 9' high. If you think you can help, **CALL ME** -- Home: 703-425-2848; Work: 703-730-1818.

The floor is a valuable club asset. We have about \$1,500 invested in this floor, and it behooves us to protect it and re-use it. For those of you who are curious, it costs about \$2,300 to rent an equivalent size floor (not including labor) for the Classic. The economic consequences should be obvious. **GET INVOLVED!**

Thank you to this year's rescue crew, and a belated thanks to last year's hard-working construction crew! To this year's installation crew -- **GET READY!!**

RED ALERT!

FLASH! BEACH MUSIC IS HERE!!!

The latest news is that **BEACH MUSIC HAS BEEN DISCOVERED AT POTOMAC MILLS!**

The store is **Music For Less** (or something like that), and it is located in the same corridor as JC Penny's and Spiegel's. **GO FOR IT!**

New Members in May

WELCOME, new members!! Cindy Brockwell, Roy Camp, Gregory Chambers, George Crowson, Lorenzo DeVera, B. Jone, James Kincheloe, Josie McElhone, Gregory Owens, Martha Riley, Gloria Sacco, Robert Stearns, June Tomasko

Happy, Happy Birthday

June Birthday Babies:

- 1 - CW Arthur
- 1 - John McDaniel
- 3 - Eva Graham
- 4 - Vicki Tedesco
- 6 - Heather Lovern
- 7 - Nancy Gehley
- 7 - Sharon Salpini
- 12 - Bill Higgins
- 17 - George Harmon
- 13 - Glenn Ball
- 17 - Mary Ferguson
- 17 - Jerry Zevin
- 20 - Don Borja
- 20 - H.K. Lee
- 20 - Bonnie Nelson
- 21 - Beverly Sgroi
- 25 - Gwen Mandel
- 25 - June Tomasko
- 28 - Keith Abernathy
- 28 - Bob Benoit
- 29 - Fred Suthard
- 30 - Linda Peterson
- 30 - Ruth Rapson
- 30 - Jeff Zaun

Northern Virginia Shag Club On The Web!

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



AND THE WINNER IS . . .

CONGRATULATIONS to **Dallas Campbell**, who got lucky and won the 50-50 last month!

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT EFFORT TO RAISE MONEY FOR OUR CLUI
Tickets are just \$1 for one, or seven for \$5!!
YOU might be the lucky one the next time!

.....
**Shaggers Dance
at Eastern Invitational**

Our club was well represented at **Barry Durand's** Eastern Invitational Dance Competitions held April 25-26 at the Sheraton National in Arlington. National Shag Champions **Sam & Sarah West** performed a stunning demonstration at the dinner show on Saturday night, bringing everyone to their feet in a standing ovation. On Friday night, **Dan Shames & Janis Grimes** shagged in the professional any-type-of-swing division, and were enthusiastically received, taking 3rd place. **Sam & Sarah** also performed a beautiful shag demo late Saturday night at the swing/shag room dance.

Many thanks to deejay **Kenny Roesel** for making the special arrangements for the shaggers on Saturday night, and for playing beach music for us. Thanks also to **The Gator** for playing for us on Saturday night!!
.....

Sincere Condolences
to **David Loeb**,
whose Father recently
passed away.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
to help with
the **Capital Shag Classic**
weekend party!!

GET INVOLVED!
Contact **Valerie**
or Any Board Member

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**

Perseverance
Anonymous

*Anyone can begin, but only the best persevere to the end.
Do not be a fair weather person.
The inevitable storms will pass. The dark clouds cannot block the sunlight forever; they will pass.
Do not say, "I no longer feel inspired."
If you are determined not to persevere, it is not because you are weak, but because you are a coward.
You say that it is too difficult. This may be true enough, but only something acquired through great effort will be truly worthwhile.*

SOS Fun Monday, Sept. 8th

TAKE A CHANCE to win \$10,000!! The winning ticket will be pulled at SOS; **YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.** In addition to the Grand Prize, there will be one winner of **\$200**, and 90 **\$50** winners.

TICKETS are \$20 each. Only checks made out to **SOS FUN MONDAY** will be accepted.

If you don't want to part with the whole \$20, find a friend or two or three who might want to join forces and buy a ticket. If four people each put in \$5 to buy one \$20 ticket and it wins, they each get \$2.50C. Not a bad return!

VALERIE has the tickets. All tickets must be sold by **August 1, 1997.**

The Shagmaster Says....

- **Shag is More Than Footwork!** It's a Southern Dance of Style and Grace.... and Coolness
- **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....

HELP!! -- VOLUNTEERS are NEEDED to help fold, staple, label, stamp and mail the newsletter each month. If you would like to help once, or once a month, with this considerable task, **please call Janis.**

Remember, this is YOUR newsletter. 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 Shaggiie'

BULLETIN BOARD

LOOK!

Shaggers Network

Place your ad here

Business card size; \$5 for one month; \$50 per year

Contact: Janis Grimes - 703-536-7362

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