



Shag Rag

Shagger Newsletter

Dedicated to the Preservation of the Carolina Shag and Beach Music

Vol. IV, No. 10

Keep on Shaggin'

October 1997

From the President - By John Belt

For the past three years I've had the pleasure to serve as one of the officers of the Northern Virginia Shag Club. As this year winds down, I've had time to reflect on our many accomplishments. From the time the seeds were planted in 1994 by a small group of dancers, the roots grew even stronger through 1995, and in '96 w. truly blossomed into one of the strongest shag clubs in the Association.

1997 has been an up and down year for me personally, and I have not had the time to dedicate myself to you and to our club. However, because of our strong root structure we have continued to grow.

There is no doubt in my mind that in 1998 under the leadership that we have, we will continue to grow. Elections will be coming up again next month -- so vote when the time comes. We have a strong slate, we are looking for nominations from the floor, and it is up to you to help us continue to grow.

Keep on shaggin'!

General Membership Meeting

Wed., Oct. 22nd

There will be a General Membership Meeting at 8:15 p.m. on Wed., Oct. 22nd at Lulu's immediately following the dance instruction.

General Elections - Coming Up Next Month!

We will be taking nominations from the floor at the General Membership Meeting for names to be added to the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates who are running for office and for the Board of Directors. Be prepared to participate in the next Membership Meeting, and vote in the elections coming up next month.

Virginia State Open

Dance Championships

Oct. 10-11

Tyson's Westpark Hotel

Don't Miss It!!

*Come and support our dancers!
Surprise shag competitors from N.C.
on Saturday night!!*

Shag Workshops with Sam & Sarah West!

Saturday

10:30 a.m. Beginner
1:30 p.m. Intermediate

Sunday

10:30 a.m. - Advanced

Cost: Workshops - \$15; (\$10 in advance)
Dance - \$20 at door; (\$15 in advance)
Info: Call Hutch - 703-698-9811

The Roving Shag Reporter



NVSC Migrates to SOS Fall Migration ... by Vesta Jones

Was this a record attendance of NVSC this year at SOS???? So far we've accounted for 45 of our club members that made the trip . . . that's 45 satisfied, happy faces and 90 swollen feet. Why in the world do we do this over and over again??? I can only speak for myself:

*A chance to meet and/or dance with lots of other wonderful people from all over the South (AND some from New England, New York and St. Louis this year.)

*A chance to visit and catch up with people I've met at shag weekends and previous SOSes -- and they're all in NMB at one time.

*People from Richmond, and Virginia Beach and Atlantic Beach, and Emerald Isle, and Charleston, and Atlanta, and Charlotte, and Winston-Salem, and Raleigh, and Greenville, and China Grove (*where???*), and Hickory, and Birmingham, and Kannapolis, and Rocky Mount, and Roanoke, and Greensboro.

*And you wonder why I go???

*Two condos at Tilghman's with 5 of my favorite friends. Lots of time to talk "girl-talk" and change outfits at least 5 times before we go out. And sharing earrings and hair spray -- not something we really have time for at any other time with all our busy schedules. (*Yes, Linda, I brought the Pam for the shooters, not to use to cook the eggs, but that worked too.*)

*A chance to visit on the beach with other NVSC members, totally relaxed (how was it that the tide came in around **Charlie** and NEVER touched his toes???)

*Fun Monday (its first year) was wonderful.

*Little Isadore was all I'd hope for . . . shaggers just couldn't stand still . . . both the weather and the music were HOT.

*A chance to hear lots of deejays that I only read about and hear others talking about. They each have their own "sound" -- I'm realizing if the music fits where I am, I stay and dance, and if the music is too fast or too slow or too old or too smooth or too blue -- *well* -- my little shag shoes just take me to dance somewhere else that fits my mood.

*And you ask why I go???

*Workshops -- Two great workshops with **Charlie Womble & Jackie McGee**. There was a **Judy Duk** Workshop I couldn't make, but I wish I could have -- she is amazing to watch, matches each and every partner.

*The beach -- *it was perfect* -- the water was perfect, the weather was perfect -- even the storms came at the right times (especially the very last one on Sunday -- what a SHOW!)

*The Hall of Famers -- the Living Legends -- a chance to see many of them dance in one place together. **Bobby Kellam & Ann Givens** from Virginia Beach were looking GOOD! **Ellen Taylor** was stylish, sexy and elegant.. And the demo by **Charlie & Jackie** -- as always -- took your breath away.

*The oldest shagger there in the demo was **92 years old** (*and I got to DANCE with him on Sunday night! I was a pretty happy camper!*) After the demo on Saturday, he and his partner got a standing ovation. I don't think coming out to dance was a special thing for him though, because he and his partner were just coming into the Spanish Galleon on Saturday night as we were leaving about 12:45 -- and on Sunday it was about midnight when I danced with him at Fat Harold's. I think he's my idol.

*The chance to dance with a huge number of shaggers. I was there 7 full days, and I probably danced with somewhere between 10 and 30 different dancers each day, depending on what else the day included.

*And a chance to see lots and lots of really wonderful dancers. The best thing about Sunday afternoon after Gospel Shag (*that's another column!!*) was that we stood around all afternoon and just watched smooth, wonderful dancers -- with enough room to see them dance.

*A chance to learn new basic variations with the "girls" in the condo and to practice some steps with a favorite dance partner.

*And you wonder why I go???

*It's good friends - new and old, good music, dancers, warm weather, dancers, the ocean, the beach, OD, dancers, shooters, the *Carefree Times*, dancers, Duck Burgers, Snoopy, Linda, Ralph and Sue, Fred, Kathy, the Shoe Center, dancers, glitz and new tee shirts.

*Why would I NOT go?

Shagger Profile -- Steve Rose

Occupation: Insurance Agency Owner

Birthday: August 3rd

Hometown: Rockville/Potomac, MD

Marital Status: Complexed Committed

Self-Portrait:



Dream: World peace, no crime, lower taxes, and polite people everywhere

Inspiration: My parents, children and friends

Favorite Dance Tune: About 100!

Bad Habit: Staying up too late! and good food

Hobby: Music, Dance, Golf, Movie & TV Acting, Cars, Travel

Luxury Defined: Good friends throughout life

Drink or Wine: Winter - Manhattan or good scotch; Summer - Cold beer; Anytime - Merlot or Chablis

TV Program: NYPD Blue and Homicide

Books at bedside: "Last Rounds" currently; always changing

Last Words: "Well, it's a wrap!"

New Members in September

WELCOME, new members!! Eric Beaver, Dennis Bricker, Jean Fanaian, Donna Roesel, Linda Singleton, Janet Steele

NVSC ROSTERS AVAILABLE! (FOR MEMBERS ONLY)

It's almost Christmas card time! Order your NVSC roster now. On Wednesday nights give your name (and \$2.00) to Val Swiger or Vesta Jones. The following week you will receive your club roster, updated the week of your order. (Please note: rosters are available to club members only.)

Bill Barber Gives NVSC a Pat on the Back ... by Vesta Jones

In a conversation with **Bill Barber** on the last Sunday afternoon of SOS, I became more and more aware of how much of a shag purist he really is. (Don't even THINK about coming near the dance floor with a drink in your hand.) **Bill** really loves the dance and the music and is 100% behind the preservation of the shag and beach music.

So it was a true pat on the back when **Bill** said, "The Northern Virginia Shag Club is becoming one of the best shag clubs in the association (ACSC). You are doing it right. You are investing in the shag, getting good instructors, teaching your members the right way to dance, and maintaining it with good instruction and practice between workshops. You're investing in the dance, where others may invest more in the party aspect of the shag culture. You may already be one of the best."

Now THAT'S a pat on the back ... from someone I really respect. We should feel very proud. And we should all thank our dance committee, **Janis Grimes**, **Chris Pax** and **Mark Rollings** (*Mark has moved to Charlotte and we miss him*), for working so hard to bring talented instructors to our workshops, and for providing quality instruction at our Wednesday night dances. Where would we be without them?

No. VA Shag Club On The Web!

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

Sincere Condolences to **Donna Harrington**, whose Father recently passed away.

DEFINITION OF SMOOTH.....

I saw a man (easily my age if not older) on 2 different days in 2 different places (with different dance partners, I think) dancing with a beer can on his head (which was bald...and we can only assume the beer can was empty, or not opened yet!)...and it never fell ... not when he turned, or did steps other than a basic ... *pretty amazing huh?*

.....

COME ON and SIGN UP!!!

VA STATE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Sam & Sarah West
will be here!!**

... by Janis Grimes

The Virginia State Open Swing Dance Championships will be held again this year at the Tyson's Westpark Hotel, October 9-12. Competitions in all types of swing dance, including Carolina Shag, will highlight this dance weekend. **C'mon and sign up to dance in the Amateur Classic Carolina Shag Division, or the Open Classic Carolina Shag Division!** You don't have to be a pro, or an experienced competitor to get out there and show off our dance. IT'S FUN, and competitors get FREE ENTRY into the event all weekend (after paying the competitor's entry fee, of course), and we want to be represented again this year! Last year, **Bill Hopkins** and **Chris Pax** won the coveted Rising Star Award, and everyone was so proud of them!

Also, there will be the opportunity to take shag workshops with **National Champions Sam & Sarah West**, as well as PRIVATE LESSONS, which are highly recommended if you are serious about learning to shag.

Anyone who wants to book private lessons, please call Janis at 703-536-7362.

Happy, Happy Birthday

October Birthday Babies:

- 1 - Shu-Hui Vielbig
- 3 - Denny Martin
- 3 - Trelle Shaw
- 7 - Nadine Stallard
- 8 - Pamela Alfano
- 9 - Isabelle Bunch
- 13 - Sharon Shipp
- 16 - Majella Gilbo
- 16 - Dean Hipps
- 18 - Sandy Shecter
- 19 - Jake Willingham
- 20 - Mark Rollings
- 21 - James Magness
- 22 - Walter White
- 24 - Nancy Astreve
- 24 - Dave Shipp
- 25 - Barry Holt
- 26 - Donna Roesel
- 28 - Gregory Chambers
- 28 - Kenny Roesel
- 30 - Louise Pyles
- 31 - Sherri Bassham
- 31 - Joel Elmore
- 31 - Richard Sullivan

Items of Interest From the ACSC Meeting at SOS ... by Valerie Swiger

• ACSC website. WWW.SHAGDANCE.COM Mik Rink asked for contributions for the new website, plus feedback.

• **Millennium Celebration:** Judy Vick will present a tentative plan for the Millennium Celebration at the 1998 ACSC Winter Meeting.

• **Reverse Raffle:** A \$10,000 check was presented to the winner of the reverse raffle. The Florence Shag Club, seller of the winning ticket received \$100.00, the club member who sold the ticket received \$200.00. The reverse raffle netted \$2,400.00 for Caring-4-Kids. NVSC member **Fred Fritz** was listed as a \$50 winner.

• **Membership:** 131 clubs in the ACSC equaling 12,976 Shaggers, with 77 clubs represented at this meeting.

• **1999 ACSC Winter Workshop** will not be hosted by the Florida shag clubs due to a conflict with dates. A new location will be decided at the 1998 ACSC winter workshop.

• New Clubs voted in:

- Steel City Boogie Club, Pittsburgh, PA
- Southern New England Shag Club, Portsmouth, RI
- Memphis Boogie Bunch
- Chatham Area Shag Association, Pittsboro, NC

GOSPEL SHAG: A High Point of SOS ... by Vesta Jones

It started last fall . . . a reason to hang around on Sunday and not leave until after noon (it didn't take a lot of convincing) . . . based on a recommendation from a friend . . . just to see what it was like.

And then it started . . . the OD Shag Club dressed in white choir robes, some with white tee shirts that read "OD Gospel Shag Choir"...and for an hour gospel shag music was played and sung . . . and the white robed choir members went out into the crowd to ask onlookers to shag! **Clyde Waller** passed his black derby around for contributions; their club charity will benefit considerably from the generosity and goodwill generated by the Gospel Shag hour. If you can schedule it, try to stay around . . . it's becoming an SOS institution!

CHARITIES . . . by Pauline Easby-Smith

Every shag club has their favorite charity that they have chosen to contribute to each year with time or money.

Our club needs to pick a charity. Your club Board Members have come up with a few to choose from. If you want to add yours, please call Pauline at 703-759-4479. These charities will be on the ballot with next year's officers so you may vote for one next month.

- **Individual Family** -- a chance to get up close and personal and see our donations at work directly.

- **St. Jude Children's Hospital** - St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (Memphis, TN) is the first institution established (open since 1962) for the sole purpose of conducting basic and clinical research into childhood catastrophic diseases, mainly cancer. Admission to St. Jude Hospital is based on referral by a physician and the disease must be under study at the hospital. St. Jude Hospital is non-sectarian, interracial and provides research and treatment of children's cancers at no cost to the patient and their families. Travel, lodging and meals are covered by St. Jude. St. Jude is the largest childhood cancer research center, in terms of number of patients and their accesses. St. Jude is prepared to work with us to coordinate a shag-a-thon as a fund raiser for this charity.

- **Hospice** - From birth to death we need loving hands to help us through our lives. There was a time when families resided close together and supplied that help. That time is fast disappearing. More and more we find we must turn to friends and sometimes strangers for help. Since 1977, the Hospice of Northern Virginia has provided medical, emotional and spiritual care to more than 17,000 terminally ill persons and those who love them. This organization is the group of strangers that we may all need some day.

NVSC 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

MARC FISHER'S LATEST CD

"Blues on the Loose" is HOT!

Club member **Marc Fisher** has teamed up with well known deejay **Judy Collins** to produce the latest compilation of funky R&B and beach music available on the dance scene. "Blues on the Loose" can be found at Judy's House of Oldies in North Myrtle Beach and in the Carolinas; and can be ordered off the internet from the website of **Debbie Ramsey Boz**, www.musicanddance.com. "Blues on the Loose" will be sold at various shag and swing events around the country, and will be available here Oct. 9-12 at the Tyson's Westpark Hotel during the Virginia State Open Dance Competitions.

The front and back covers of this volume were shot at our club's "home," Lulu's at Blackie's -- and you may recognize the dancers pictured shaggin' there. The music on this CD is great, with two of the tunes produced by **Judy** herself. This combo-compilation of beach and swing music is great for listening in the car, and most of the tunes are good for shaggin' -- it's a perfect party album. Good luck to **Marc** and **Judy** on their collaboration!

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....

WHAT A BLAST!!! Back from SOS, but my heart is still in shag Mecca, a dancer's paradise..... It just doesn't get any better than this, folks! *The music, the people, the beach, the dancing, the fun, the food, the dancersthe ENERGY of it all is so euphoric -- If you haven't experienced it, you cannot know what you're missing!*

As always, 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 Shaggin'

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

Contact: Janis Grimes - 703-536-7362

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<http://www.sbolnet.com>

Vesta Jones
vjones@sbolnet.com
301-765-0995

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**

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