



NORTHERN VIRGINIA SHAG CLUB

Shag Rag

Shagger Newsletter

Dedicated to the Preservation of the Carolina Shag and Beach Music

Vol. V, No. 2

Keep on Shaggin'

February 1998

From the President . . . by Vesta Jones

SOS Memberships are now on sale through our shag club until Feb. 18th for only \$30. After that you'll need to buy your membership by mail for \$35.00. You'll get into all the dance clubs FREE during SOS at BOTH the Spring Safari and Fall Migration (and into the Myrtle Beach clubs 2001 and Celebrations); the SOS newspaper *Carefree Times* will be mailed directly to you; discounts at various businesses that offer special prices to SOS members; free tram service during SOS; support for junior SOS (for our shagging children), AND you'll be contributing to the National Hospice. It's a bargain...take advantage of this service through the club.

ACSC meetings at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday morning at Mid-Winter...Arrghh! *It's a test, isn't it, to see who is really committed to this???* The mid-winter ACSC business meeting was just a preview of the big meeting in February that will be in Atlantic Beach. However, there were a couple of significant items that may be of interest to our club at this time: For the spring SOS parade - there will be prize money for the club floats and prize money for "marching" troops ... several of us are working on an idea for our club... if you want to be part of this, see **Pauline!** AND as part of the parade there is the "All Male Beauty Contest"...any takers from our club? It's a scream....lots of fun and a great way to be part of the camaraderie of SOS.

* Shag clubs that wish to become corporate sponsors of the Junior Shag Association may do so for \$30/year.

* A task force is being assembled to address the possibility of having at least one smoke-free club at SOS.

* The ACSC By-laws are being reviewed: **Vesta** is one of the 3 members of the task force to review them.

If you have any comments or ideas about any of these items, please let us know. **Vesta, Dennis, and Beverly** (at the very least) are going to be attending the ACSC Winter Workshop in Atlantic Beach, Feb. 21st... we want to represent your interests...let us hear from you.

FLASH!!

1996 U.S. Open Champions
9 Times National Shag Champions
Shag Hall of Fame

Charlie Womble & Jackie McGee

Will Be Here Next Month!!

3 Shag Workshops on Saturday, March 7th at Blackie's

Beginner	11:00 a.m. - 12 noon
Intermediate	1:00 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Advanced	2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Cost: Members -- \$10 per workshop
Non-Members -- \$15 per workshop

DANCE SATURDAY NIGHT!

Army-Navy Country Club, Arlington, VA

8-12 p.m. - Adv. Tkts \$12.50 -- CASH BAR

Includes Light Snacks

Everyone is Welcome to Attend!!

To schedule PRIVATE LESSONS w/ Charlie & Jackie
call Janis Grimes - 703-536-7362

News/Info -- please contact

Editor: Janis Grimes, 703-536-7362; or email JaniGrimes@aol.com

The Man's Dance? . . . by Chris Pax

Wow. I really don't want to make anyone feel uncomfortable, but there is something I think we should think about.... Why do we keep telling everyone, particularly new students of shag, that, "This is a *man's* dance?"

The first time I heard someone say something like this, I asked him about it after the class. I appreciated that he was pretty honest with me about where he was coming from: "Well, that's the way it is in shag, isn't it? Shouldn't we tell it like it is?"

Well, ...hmmm, ...let's take a look at that. When someone says, "This is a man's dance," they usually mean more than just that shag is a dance where the guy leads and the woman follows. It's a lot stronger than that. There are lots of dances where the man leads, but these dances are not described as "a man's dance."

You know, I have heard those stories about male shaggers of the past, who would walk right off the dance floor and leave their female partners alone, hopefully humiliated, if they tried to do "too much." How do we view those dancers today? Are they remembered as heroes who helped preserve an important piece of shag heritage, or do we hear these stories with a twinge of amusement, and even embarrassment, about the way women were treated in that day and age?

We all know that shag has changed a lot in the past 10-15 years. We know that mirror patterns and lead-and-follow moves are taking a larger chunk of floor time, relative to the all "male lead" style of the early days of shag. We have all heard that female competitors will now, on occasion, do the splits and other moves typically thought of as "male lead," and receive wild applause for this at competitions. Yet we persist in telling people that our beloved shag is "a man's dance."

Personally, I cringe when I hear that statement. I can only speak for myself, but it hurts just a little. That sort of statement makes me feel that somehow my role as a woman in this dance is unimportant, or not valued. That I am just a prop out there for the guy to show off *his* stuff, and I must always "remember my place." Do we really want our female shaggers to feel this way?

I'm sure that the people who say it don't intend to cause harm, but is it really a harmless statement? I wonder about what new female dancers think, when they hear this. Or even what the new male dancers think. How does that make them feel, about learning this dance? I have met some men who seem to enjoy

running the show all the time, and want to be the only thing anyone pays attention to on the dance floor, and I guess that's OK, but I know MORE men who seem to prefer to share the spotlight sometimes; who prefer a full partner instead of a retiring, whatever-you-dear, follower. Tired of having to call every one of the shots, and maybe also genuinely curious, men do sometimes ask their partners, "Well, what would YOU like to do?" In this day and age, many men will even send a warm and appreciative smile to a female partner who executes a step well (and good for them -- we appreciate that!).

Many dances have leaders and followers, and usually it's the men who lead, the women who follow. And many dances have different ways of showcasing the talents of male and female dancers. That's what give each dance its own, special look and style. That's all great -- I'm certainly not trying to say that women should lead, in shag. I'm also not trying to say that male lead moves should be eliminated from the dance. Of course not! I love shag just the way it is! But I am suggesting that when we say, "This is a male-dominated dance" what happens, mostly, is that the woman's role in this dance is belittled. And I assert that maybe we've reached the point where we should not continue saying this.

Any two shaggers dancing together will eventually find their own balance of moves and make their own, unique statement. When I practice regularly with someone, the two of us work out an arrangement that suits us and our individual situation. From what I can tell, this is what most dancers do. Shaggers come in all kinds of personalities, and with a variety of talents and skills.

Add to all this the fact that shag itself is dynamic, alive, strong, and evolving, just as is the society of which this dance is a part. To isolate this dance and try to make shaggers behave as though they belonged to a society from the past, would be to doom it. Shag must, and in fact does, live and grow along with the society that sustains it.

"This is a *man's* dance," belies these facts. I think it puts a crude, over-simplified, and easily misunderstood wrapper around a complex and dynamic reality. It's something to think about. Do we really want to keep saying this, particularly when we're teaching? Couldn't we just let people watch, dance, and draw their own conclusions?

No. VA Shag Club On The Web!

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

Shagger Profile -- Robert Jones

Nickname: Rob

Occupation: Government Attorney

Birthday: December 7th

Hometown: Eastport, Maine

Marital Status: Single

Inspiration: Watching Robert Royston & Lawreen Baldovi dance

Hobby: Dancing, ice skating, dancing, rollerblading, dancing, etc., etc....

Drink or Wine: Cabernet Sauvignon

TV Program: Club Dance

Books at bedside: No Comebacks, by Frederick Forsyth

Last Words: Can you say "6, 7, 8" to the music?

LOOKING for Someone?

There are many duties involved in running an organization the size of our club. When there were less than 100 members, the 7 or 9 Board Members had little trouble doing everything that needed to be done. But as we have grown to 280+ members, we could use some **HELP** from the members! Please volunteer to serve on a committee. Your club needs your help!!

COMMITTEES and Committee Heads:

Capital Shag Classic	Valerie Swiger
Charity	Dave Shipp
Communications	Dennis Gehley
Dance	Janis Grimes
Historian	Valerie Swiger
Hospitality	Betty Abshire
Membership	Valerie Swiger
Music	Craig Jennings
Newsletter	Janis Grimes
Public Relations	Beverly Sgroi

AND THE WINNER IS ...

CONGRATULATIONS to Rick Mesmer, who got lucky and won the 50-50 last month!

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT EFFORT TO RAISE MONEY FOR OUR CLUB'S CAPITAL SHAG CLASSIC WEEKEND PARTY! Tickets are just \$1 for one, or seven for \$5!! YOU might be the lucky one the next time!

SHERRY WINTER...

recently moved to Hilton Head; she'd like to hear from her friends -- *new e-mail address:*

skwinter@hargray.com

\$\$ RAFFLE • RAFFLE • RAFFLE \$\$

For only \$2.00 you could win a weekend pass to the Capital Shag Classic AND a room for two nights -- \$150 Value!! Contact any Board Member to purchase a ticket.

LOST: Gold Rope Bracelet -- at KENWOOD Country Club dance on January 10th -- Please Contact Joan English or Janis Grimes, 703-536-7362

Northern Virginia Shag Club Dance to Beach Music by Craig Jennings

every Wednesday night at
Lulu's

at **Blackie's** in Springfield, VA

\$2 Cover
For Directions, call 703-971-4200

FREE Shag Lessons DANCE from
at 7:30 p.m. 8:30 - 11 p.m.

!! Please Remember !!

Support Your Dance Floor

Buy your drinks at the bar in Lulu's!!

You can order food right at the bar, too!

John & Joan English Workshops a Hit!

... by Valerie Swiger

Hosting out-of-town shaggers is always so much fun. I love having a house full of people, and from the time **John & Joan English** arrived at noon on Friday it was a non-stop weekend. Their private lessons started at 4 p.m. and went until 10 p.m. Somewhere in that time frame we were able to sit down for a quick meal and get to know them a little better.

They have been married for 34 years, have one daughter, and a four-month-old granddaughter. John is retired from Lockheed Martin, and Joan works for the College of Charleston. John could survive on chocolate chip cookies, and both are avid followers of ice dancing competition.

The five groups that took privates on Friday all agreed that the English's are superb teachers. They mixed excellent suggestions with laughter and patience.

Saturday was filled with three dance workshops, each lasting an hour and a half, and then a dance that evening. And although both were suffering from some sort of seasonal malady, they put on a beautiful demo Saturday night.

They had planned to stay until late Sunday to teach some more private lessons, but they were just too sick, especially Joan. We wish to thank them for making the long drive from Charleston, S.C., and hope that by the time of this article that they are both fully recovered.

\$ Change for Charity \$

NVSC has chosen the Hospice of Northern Virginia as our club charity. **Dave Shipp** is the new chairman of this event. Throughout the year, we will be conducting different projects to raise funds for this worthy cause. We have started a "Change for Charity" jar that will be at all of our events, so please donate generously..... throw your spare change into the jar!

ATTENTION!

If you (or someone you know) would like to be a vendor at the 1998 Capital Shag Classic, please contact Valerie Swiger at 703-281-9193 for details.

Happy, Happy Birthday

February Birthday Babies:

- 1 - Robert Busey
- 1 - Dan Shames
- 1 - Len Surniak
- 3 - Mary Atienza
- 3 - Scott Freeman
- 5 - Ron Johnson
- 6 - Dee Bassett
- 6 - Shannon Lewis
- 7 - Sara Brodsky
- 7 - Sandy Mizerek
- 7 - Marshall Ojeda
- 7 - Phyliss Swart
- 8 - James Raney
- 8 - Mike Stringer
- 9 - Jeanette Bright
- 10 - Eric Beaver
- 14 - Jim Florer
- 16 - Jennifer Adams
- 18 - Fred Fritz
- 19 - Jim Taylor
- 20 - Carmie Mazzan
- 20 - Howard Wiener
- 22 - Frank Hale
- 25 - Norman Beattie
- 25 - Cindy Brockwell

New Members in January

WELCOME, new members!! Jeannie Albaugh, Lisa Anderson, Lee Antton, Susan Bane, Jim Florer, Scott Freeman, Carol Garfinkel, Phil Jones, Robert Jones, Max McQuighan, Laura Monagle, Ron Nicholson, Mike Stringer



From the Editor....

SHAGGERS! Legendary Motown group **The Showmen** will perform at a charity dance on **Saturday, Feb. 7th, at the Mt. Vernon Yacht Club** in Alexandria; advance tickets \$15; \$17.50 at the door (**includes food & bevs**). A beginner shag lesson will be taught by **Larry Boyer & Melody Wayland** at 7 p.m. **Come on out, shaggers, and show off your cool style!** (More details in *Upcoming Events*, this issue.)

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'

Charlie & Jackie
PRODUCTIONS

1998

MEMORIAL Weekend

Early Bird Party - Thursday, May 21

May 21-25, 1998

ATLANTA, GA

Competition Coordinator
Annie Hirsch

Emcee
Mario Robau, Jr.

Workshops by Champions

- Mario Robau, Jr Ramiro Gonzalez
- Robert Cordoba Wayne & Sharlot Batt
- Barry Jones Beata Howe Michael & Mari Kiehm
- Charlie & Jackie.....and a free Shag workshop

2 ballrooms open all weekend!

COMPETITION DIVISIONS

- Classic Team Carolina Classic Masters
- Showcase Cabaret Strictly Swing Jr Shag Jr Swing

Novice Jack & Jill

GNDC FAVORITE ENTERTAINER AWARD

Renaissance Waverly Hotel

Special Rate for GNDC

\$79 per night 1- 4 persons (770) 953-4500 Reservations

EVENT TICKET ORDER FORM

NAME _____ Number _____ Cost _____
 STREET _____ \$65 per seat
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ (\$70 each at door)
 PHONE NO _____
 CLUB AFFILIATION _____ (**\$600) \$650 Table of 10
 \$25 per day pass
 Total Enclosed \$ _____
 Make check or M.O. payable to GNDC
 Mail to GNDC 1206 Dunwoody Walk Atlanta, GA 30338

QUESTIONS (770) 512-7848
 (**\$600 price good for table purchase ONLY
 and must be purchased before Feb. 15)



Capital Area Shag Club

10th Annual

Winter Shag Blast

Sheraton Resort

Atlantic Beach, N. C.

February 20-22, 1998



Tickets for the entire weekend \$35

\$8 Friday Night - \$7 Saturday Afternoon

\$15 Saturday Night - \$5 Other Events

Oceanview rooms \$47 per night for 2 people

1-800-624-8875 (Shelton) or 1-800-533-3700 (Royal Pavilion) before February 7, 1998

Act for CASC sites.



FRIDAY

5-8 Poolside Welcome Party
 Beer, wine, Capital Sunshine
 and Food

8-1 DJ Terry Ellis

SATURDAY

9:30 Winter Workshop - Royal Pavilion
 11-1 Capital Sunshine Party
 1-6 DJ Randall Hight

8-1 DJ Russell Perkins
 Heavy Hitters d'oeuvre

SUNDAY

9:30-11 Ferrell Poolside
 Hospitality
 Biscuits, coffee and juice!

A Winter Tradition at Atlantic Beach, N. C.

Make checks payable to: CASC Winter Shag Blast '98

Mail to: Capital Area Shag Club, 1936 Village Squire Circle, Raleigh, N. C. 27610

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ No. Tickets _____ Amt. enclosed \$ _____

**A portion of our proceeds from the weekend
 will go to Hospice of Wake County.**

