



NORTHERN VIRGINIA SHAG CLUB

Shag Rag

Shagger Newsletter

Dedicated to the Preservation of the Carolina Shag and Beach Music

Vol. V, No. 3

Keep on Shaggin'

March 1998

From the President . . . by Vesta Jones

Basically, I'm a sailor... I've sailed many years and it's in my soul. Being president of this club reminds me of being at the helm of our sail-boat "running before the wind." What that means in sailing terms is that both big sails are up, one out on either side of the boat, to catch as much as possible the wind that is behind us. At the helm, there can be no lapse of attention, because the wind can blow the stern of the boat around and the powerful forward motion of the boat may turn into chaos.

The energy at last month's Board Meeting reminded me of that powerful wind energy... I feel as though our club is full of terrific energy and as long as we keep our course set on our club objective of preserving the shag dance, and beach and shag music (and providing opportunities for great fun while doing so), we won't be blown about by energies that may catch us napping at the helm!

It's been a long time since I was in a room so filled with energy...we stayed more than three hours, and were all still talking about ideas as we went out of the door. Everything we discussed that night has the potential to propel this club forward, to serve our charity, to provide more fun, to involve more of us in determining the direction we want to go... it was wonderful. I am so happy to have this opportunity. I promise, I won't be napping at the helm.

News/Info/Ads - please contact Janis Grimes, 703-536-7362; or [email JaniGrimes@aol.com](mailto:JaniGrimes@aol.com)
Do you have email? Send your email address to our Communications Committee—vms@olg.com

FLASH!!

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

Charlie Womble & Jackie McGee

Will Be Here Next Week!!

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. - Tickets \$12.50 - Members
\$15 - Non-Members

CASH BAR -- Light Snacks Included
Everyone is Welcome to Attend!!

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

SOS: The First Time ... by the Virgin Trippers

SOS was undoubtedly the biggest and best five-day party ever attended by the virgin trippers - Vesta Jones, Donna Leibowitz, Trelle Shaw, Linda Shingleton (Trelle's NC friend) and Karen Wagley. We expected a good time, but our first SOS far exceeded our dreams. If you've never been to SOS you've got to begin making plans for your virgin trip NOW - we all agreed that we'll be returning as experienced SOSers in September.

Tripping. In anticipation of all the fun, Trelle suggested renting a car with a huge trunk so we could party together all the way down to Myrtle Beach. It turned out that we had to pay extra for additional drivers, but Trelle knew that when her toes hit the sand she would not want to get back in the van until it was time to go home (she made no bones about it - when the sun was up she would be sleeping on the beach and when the sun went down she would be shagging - she didn't even need to stop for meals - just a quick Duck's burger once a day), so Karen signed on as the additional driver so everyone else could shop. Well, if you want to get a van for the price of a car, take Karen along. Karen is an expert about renting cars. She noticed a sign that said if you bring a car back empty it would be filled up at a charge of 99 cents a gallon. Obviously much cheaper than the gas pumps around here. Not only that, she had the same birthday as the rental clerk so they gave us a van for the price of a car! The trip was a success before we even headed south, except for the fact that no one guessed that after the first night we would never see Karen again until it was time to go home (except over coffee in the morning when everyone woke up).

To take advantage of Karen's suggestion and calculate exactly where to fill the car up on the way home, Trelle suggested that they not fill the car up until it registered empty. Everyone agreed with the idea until it became apparent around Lumberton, NC that Trelle's idea of empty was running out of gas on the highway and using Vesta's AAA plus card to have the van towed back to Alexandria. Trelle was overruled and the van ended up being turned in with 1/8th of a tank of gas.

Lessons Learned. A week before leaving for Myrtle Beach, experienced SOSer Val Swiger gave Vesta some advice to share with the group: "If a man has gray hair and is tapping his toes, ask him to dance -- he's bound to be a good shagger." On the trip down, Trelle bragged, "I could never get worn out shaggin'. I can shag all night long. I hope there are plenty of gray-haired men tapping their toes." Trelle got her wish but ate her words before the place closed down on the second night. She was hobbling by midnight and had already iced her ankle and massaged her feet before everyone else returned.

We were fairly certain that we were well equipped with all our Nova shag lessons and Val's expert advice, but Donna wondered if we would know all of the same mirror steps as the gray-haired toe-tappers. Of course with a group of women there is always an answer to everything. We all agreed when a man asked us if we knew a strange step we would say "No, but do you know the Magnolia?" In case he was a wise man and asked us to show the steps to him, we agreed that we would tell him "It is very complicated and involves about eight six counts" Donna was the only one with the guts and the memory to test the plan. While dancing with her seventeenth gray-haired toe-tapper she was finally asked if she knew the Dippetty Roll.

When she gave him the Magnolia response his eyes sure enough lit up and he said, "Show it to me." Needless to say Donna's response left him gaping, but he didn't ask her about any more mirror steps.

All the way to Myrtle Beach Vesta worried about getting the in time to buy dancing shoes so she would look like a shagger to go dancing Wednesday night (even brought her cell phone so she could call for directions to the Shoe Center from the car). When we reached Myrtle Beach, she called but was told the store closed in 10 minutes and we would not be able to buy shoes until Thursday morning. Turned out for the best, Trelle's friend Linda is a real southern shagger from Emerald Isle, NC. Linda explained to Vesta that it would take more than shoes to make her look like the real southern shagger -- it was gonna take GOLD -- gold earrings, gold belt, gold visor and gold dancing shoes, a true GOLDEN GIRL -- and sure enough Vesta shagged with many more than her share of shaggers (was it really the gold?).

After the first night, Donna was told so often that she talked funny, she requested southern as a second language lessons from Linda. Just ask how she asks a guy to shag now -- "Do ya'll s h a y a g?" She got so good at her southern drawl, she surprised them when she admitted she was from Washington, D.C. She loved the reactions she got: "I didn't know people know how to shag that far north"; "Say WHAT????"; "Oh Lawd, you're really out of your element"; "You mean Washington, NC?"; "But where did you learn to shag?"; "Are you SERIOUS?"; "Do you work for the IRS?"; "You're a Yankee?????"

Top Ten Lessons Learned at SOS:

- 10 When renting a car, get everyone licensed to drive (Karen wasn't there)
- 9 Girls need to rent a van and party while they travel - it's better than a year of therapy
- 8 Groups are great in the van - but not on the dance floor
- 7 Crowded SOS dance floors prove Rick Hendrix right - real shaggers take TINY steps.
- 6 Two beach chairs and two beach towels will work for five girls - rotate every hour chair to towel (Karen wasn't there)
- 5 Take at least one real southerner along in your group to interpret
- 4 Even if you agree on a favorite beach tape, you don't have to listen to it all the way home
- 3 A four-roll pack of toilet paper is not enough for five girls for five days (in spite of the fact that Karen didn't use her share)
- 2 Men LOVE to dance with a single woman. (Definition of a single woman: a woman standing alone, ALL BY HERSELF, standing beside Karen (Karen wasn't there))
- 1 Not all gray-haired toe-tappers can shag

Questions You Don't Want Answered:

Why did the van stop by a wooded path travelling back to DC and who decided to take advantage of it?

Where was Karen?

Why do men stand in line outside the Ladies room -- to meet women?

Why are the virgins putting a rose in the blender?

How did Bob and Val play a part in why Donna decided she'd never miss another SOS?

Why doesn't everybody go to SOS?

Reprinted from previous editions of the Shag Rag and Carefree Times

Shagger Profile -- James Harley

Nickname: Jimmy

Occupation: Supervisor, Air Traffic Controller

Birthday: November 25

Hometown: Philadelphia, PA

Marital Status: Single

Self-Portrait: Outgoing, friendly and hard-working

Motto: There is no "I." in team

Dream: A hole in one, on a par 3, in golf someday!

Inspiration: Rocky Balboa; William Wallace of Braveheart

Favorite Dance Tune: Wall to Wall - Havana

Bad Habit: Try to do too much each day

Hobby: Landscaping

Luxury Defined: BMW 750; sleep late; mints on pillow at night

Drink or Wine: Scotch & water; White Zinfandel

TV Program: NYPD Blue

Books at bedside: Steven King's *Thinner*; Dean Koontz, *Mr. Murder*

Last Words: People take themselves too seriously

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
at 7:30 p.m.

DANCE from
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!

FLASH!!

Pre-Shag HAPPY HOUR!

AT 6:30 p.m. - Lulu's

BEFORE FREE LESSONS!!

Happy, Happy Birthday

March Birthday Babies:

- 2 - Raymond Farris
 - 3 - Rick Hendrix
 - 4 - Howard Christie
 - 4 - Evelyn Metaxas
 - 7 - Jean Fanaian
 - 8 - Chris Pax
 - 14 - Tilly Clouse
 - 14 - Patty Hoegel
 - 14 - Thomas Nelson
 - 15 - John Mullen
 - 16 - Shirley Jones
 - 17 - Ralph Hart
 - 18 - Doug Levitas
 - 22 - Robert Wilson
 - 23 - Sally Riskin
 - 27 - David Jones
 - 28 - Jerry Swart
 - 30 - Matthew Brussock
 - 30 - Mary Lou Tellado
 - 31 - Dennis Bricker
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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.

\$\$ 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.

EXTRA!! EXTRA!!!

DINNER for TWO at BLACKIE's for only \$5.00!

Beginning the first week in March, we will raffle off a \$30.00 gift certificate for dinner at Blackie's House of Beef (Springfield). Each raffle ticket will cost \$5.00. We will alternate Wednesday's between selling tickets for the 50-50 and the Blackie's gift certificates. What a great way to support your club!!

AND THE WINNER IS . . . \$\$\$

CONGRATULATIONS to **Louise Brown**, 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!

Go on Record for Charity.....

As a fund-raiser and a "fun-raiser" we are going to offer you an opportunity to go "on record" for our charity, Hospice of Northern Virginia. We have a limited supply of old (unusable...not collector's items) 45 rpm records and 33 1/3 albums..... we are asking you to clean out your attics and basements and contribute yours to the club if you find some. THEN, we'll decorate them ("glitz" them up as **Pauline** would say), and use them as fund-raisers. For example, for \$5.00 you would autograph (in white paint) a 45 rpm record... then that record would be used to decorate at our Capital Shag Classic and other NVSC parties. We may use them as part of table decorations or hang them from the ceiling or use them as a mobile... all the proceeds from this initiative will go directly to our club charity: Hospice of Northern Virginia and you will have gone "on record" in support of our charity.

Also, please remember to check your pockets on shag night... *any loose change???* and put it our "Change for Charity" jar that is on the club table.

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New Members in February

WELCOME, new members!! **Louise Brown, Jimmy Harley, William Martin, Ken Moreau, Chris White**

Board Meeting Notes - February

- Treasurer's Report: \$3,022 regular account; \$860 special events account; \$156 charity account.
- We will apply for tax exempt status.
- Decision to raffle \$30.00 BLACKIE's Gift Certificates, alternating with 50-50, to start the first week in March.
- Decision to sell "records" for charity as a fundraiser.
- Decision to start a Pre-Shag Happy Hour at BLACKIE's at 6:30 on Wednesday night, beginning February 18, 1998.
- **Jerry Canada** and **Craig Jennings** will deejay the **Charlie & Jackie Dance Party** at the Army-Navy Country Club.
- We will have a Pre-SOS "beach party" at Kenwood Country Club on April 11th.
- Capital Shag Classic: The flyers are ready, the agreements for the deejays and workshop instructors are finalized. The menu is in from the hotel.
- **Susie Beaver** will teach shag workshops here on August 22; the dance will be at the Fort Myer Community Center.
- The Winter Holiday party will be December 12, 1998 at the McLean VFW.
- Finalized information to be included in new member packet.
- Decision to have Suggestion Box on the table each week.

SUGGESTION BOX

NOTICE: Help make the club the way *you* want it!!! There is now a suggestion box on the Club table...(even note cards, a pen and *ahem...* "club reading glasses")... all we need now are YOUR ideas... party ideas? fund-raisers? complaints? music requests? observations? requests for carpools to weekend events? ANYTHING! We want the club to be *your* club... we can only do that if we hear from you.

PLEASE VOTE ON THIS

It has been suggested that we have a MONTHLY general membership meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of each month instead of just a QUARTERLY general membership meeting. Please vote YES or NO (for a monthly meeting) at the Club table on Wed. nights during the month of March.

Back in Time . . . by Kathryn Quattrone

It was March of 1997, and I was a regular at the Red Moon Saloon (country/western bar, Fairfax, Va.). I was starting over, looking for new friends and new adventures. Line-dancing was fun -- didn't need a partner. Yeah, I can do this!! It was clear to me that dancing was an "oldie but goodie" that I had missed doing a lot. One night, one of my friends from "the Moon" started talking to me about this new dance class he was taking at Blackie's -- Shag (thank you, **Dave**). He was saying, "You know, not the country/western side but the other side -- DeJa Vu. It's a blast!" I had seen Shag once or twice and was kinda listening to him talk about it and kinda not. I knew I had reached a point in the country/western scene where line-dancing just wasn't cuttin' it any more. I had been trying to do the couples thing with the two-step and "nah" it wasn't cuttin' it, either. For me, going around in a circle and then going around inside that same circle -- well, forget it!!

So, one night I ventured over to the "Shag-side" -- little did I know then what that one night would do for me!! I watched from a corner and realized that the dance was something like the jitterbug my brothers and sisters had taught me when I was younger. Right then I knew I was "hooked" -- no doubt about it!! You can't stay in a corner so long at Shag Club (thank you, **AJ**). I learned fast that Shag night is a participatory dance night and, one way or another -- if you're there, you will not want for a dance partner -- and you will dance. I kept coming back to the beginner class and before long I had met a veteran dancer who was kind enough to practice with me (thank you, **John**) and my passion for the dance grew even more.

In June, I had one of the best times of my life, the "Capital Shag Classic!" The energy and just plain fun that was had will stay with me always. I was mesmerized by **Ellen Taylor**. Her style and grace was like no other. The intensity of the people doing their favorite steps; the workshops, where we all learned new ones; and, even today, remembering the Jerry Lee Lewis impersonator still brings a smile -- what a gas!! (Just don't tell him he wasn't the real thing!)

On Sunday morning, after dancing 14 of the last 24 hours, I found myself (with others) eating breakfast by the pool with my feet in the hot tub thinking, "Wow, will these puppies ever be the same?" only to be drawn in by conversations about the Gospel Shaggin' that was about to begin. Gospel Shaggin' -- what in the world was that? Oh, ya gotta see it to believe it... or should I say "feel it" to believe it!

I know there are very few things I do well (not meant to be a negative statement, just a plain truthful one) -- but I

am determined that Shag is going to be one thing that I will learn to do well. There are times when I just can't get enough (thank you, **Chris and Fred**). Teach me more, teach me more (thank you, **Nancy and Dennis**.... now how does that DC sweep go again?... Now Fred... the Shell, show me that again, (I know **Jake**, it's called something else on the video!). It hasn't quite been a year, but I had to go back in time (just a little) and share with all of my new friends (thank you, **Valerie, Vesta, Bob, Sharon, Dave, Rick, Pamela, Judy, Eva and Jane** (maybe I'll get that Swing-thing yet), **Fred, Jake, Phyllis, Jerry, Bob, Don, Gary**) that the terrific joy the dance, the people, and the events the club has to offer have made a difference to me.

I look forward so much to this new year in the club. All the new dance steps you dedicated teachers have to offer (thank you, **Bill, Joan, Janis, Fred, Chris, Dave, Craig, Heather, John, Melody**, etc.); I've already heard stories of Mid-Winter fun (yeah, Myrtle Beach); I anticipate going to Spring SOS (you go girl); our Capital Shag Classic (there go the feet again); new workshops (**John and Joan** -- now there are two "Hippies on a Corner"; and **Jackie and Charlie** -- WOW). But best of all, Wednesday nights and those "oldies but goodies," and remembering for me how it all began.

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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....

SHAGGERS! We are very fortunate to have the fabulous **Charlie Womble & Jackie McGee** with us this month for workshops, private lessons AND a party! Our dance for them on Saturday evening will be held at the beautiful Army-Navy Country Club in Arlington, which claims to have the largest most beautiful ballroom and dance floor in the entire Washington area.

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'

