



Shag Rag

Shagger Newsletter

Dedicated to the Preservation of the Carolina Shag and Beach Music

Vol. V, No. 7

Keep on Shaggin'

July 1998

From the President . . . by Vesta Jones

THERE WAS SOMETHING IN THE AIR....

You could just feel it...that's the way Bev Sgroi put it to me today at the close of our Capital Shag Classic weekend. She described it as an energy starting on Friday night and building all weekend...something palpable...something we all shared and felt and enjoyed. The Third Annual Capital Shag Classic has officially been declared a success... a sell-out with 200 paid weekend participants. Everything went flawlessly thanks to Val Swiger and her team (Heather Jennings, hospitality; Cecile Rocek and Joan McKinney, decorations; Janis Grimes, dance workshops, exhibitions and entertainment; Craig Jennings, music and dee-jays; Gary Salpini, floor expert and band-stand builder extraordinaire)...and the rest of the hands and hearts that went into making this weekend fun and successful and memorable. We hope that JoAnne Johnson, Larry & Shirley Jones, Leslie Melton, Norman Aldridge, Earl Robinson and Beverly Jones felt it and know that we appreciate their time and effort to come and be a part of our weekend, and their contributions to making it special.

And how about that floor team on Thursday night and Sunday afternoon??? What is it that gets 15 or 20 people to come in after a hard day's work to unload and lay a floor, then those (and others) to stay AFTER the party to disassemble it, reload it (in the rain), taking down decorations, packing, loading... then to stand and talk and share stories... not wanting the experience to be over? What IS it? I could be sappy and mushy, but I won't... basically, it is friendship and the sheer enjoyment of being part of a good thing. It is pride in being part of an energetic, forward looking shag club that enjoys sharing our love of dance and music and each other with others. The Third Annual Capital Shag Classic was a BIG HIT -- a huge thank you to all of you!

We're Havin' a Party..... 

Shaggers / Hand Dancers

DANCE to BEACH MUSIC

by

Denny & Eddy

FREE SHAG LESSON - at 7:30

Saturday, August 8th

8:30-12:30 p.m.

At the VFW in Morningside, MD

*Directions: From Woodrow Wilson Bridge
take Exit # 9 Andrews AFB;
turn Left on Allentown Road. At the traffic light,
turn Left onto Suitland Road at McDonald's.
Go 1 mile -- VFW is on the Left.*

Cost: \$8 -- Members

\$10 -- Non-members

CASH BAR

Everyone is Welcome!!

*Sponsored by the No. Virginia Shag Club
and the MD, DC, VA Hand Dance Assn.*

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

SHAGGIN' AND BOPPIN' WITH NASHVILLE'S FINEST!

... by Dennis (Juke on the Loose) Gehley

Did you know that with a little advanced planning you can dance at Shag Clubs in our nation's country music capital? Did you know that many shag clubs outside the Washington, D.C. area belong to both the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs (ACSC) and the American Bop Association? Did you know that the American Bop Association promotes the preservation of swing, jitterbug, bop, and shag? That's right! Nancy and I learned all this and more during a recent vacation from Tulsa, Oklahoma, through Memphis to Nashville, Tennessee.

We had a fantastic time on Wednesday, May 19, in Nashville, courtesy of **Wayne Keith**, President of the Music City Bop Club, and the nice folks at the Nashville Be Bop Association. Don't let the names confuse you - the Music City Bop Club is one of Nashville's two fine shag clubs, and many shaggers belong to the Be Bop Association.

Wayne was gracious enough to take time out from his hectic schedule to meet us at our hotel on his way to last minute preparations for his club's major event of the year, the Summer Boogie Blast Tenth Anniversary Party on Memorial Day weekend, and bring us some awesome souvenir T-shirts.

Even though Fat Harold's Beach Club in North Myrtle Beach was hosting the Hospitality Room for Saturday night and we could have danced to DJs from Tennessee, Georgia, and South Carolina, Nancy and I had previously committed ourselves to be in Tulsa for our godson's high school graduation. But we were thrilled to join the shaggers, boppers, west coast swingers, and all God's dancing children at the Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel on the Wednesday before the Blast. We met many great people, saw some inspiring dancers, learned the basic bop step, learned a new line dance (well, Nancy learned, I watched), heard a great DJ **David Wallace**, picked up some classy Be Bop Association T's, and counted our blessings that we were in town the night that the Boppers were dancing.

So here are a couple of tips for possibly having an equally good time. When planning your out-of-town trips, [1] Go to the INTERNET at www.shagdance.com/info/clublisting.html; [2] Download the list of Association of Carolina Shag Clubs; [3] Call or write the person(s) listed for the shag club(s) in the city you will be visiting and find out what night of the week the club meets and where they dance; [4] Go there and dance!

Thanks again to **Wayne Keith** for all his help in planning our evening and to **Bill Morris** who made us feel especially welcome. Come see us, guys!

Shagger Profile -- Jean Jennings

Occupation: Promotional Assistant in Sales

Birthday: May 27th

Hometown: Annandale, VA

Marital Status: Single

Self-Portrait: Nice, honest, fun, perky redhead

Motto: One day at a time -- keep smilin'

Dream: Be a better shagger

Inspiration: Life in general

Bad Habit: Talking too much

Hobby: Dancing and snow skiing

Favorite Dance Tune: Shaggin' on the Boulevard /
Reba McIntire

Luxury Defined: Being healthy and having lots of
friends

Drink or Wine: Merlot

TV Program: Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman

Books at bedside: Library book, and Bible

Last Words: Happiness for everyone!

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.*

Shaggers Do It With Their Feet

ERNEST REFLECTS ON THE THIRD ANNUAL CAPITAL SHAG CLASSIC

by Ernest P. (for Powertools) Worrell

Hey Vern! Drop what you're doin' because I'm not foolin', we got a HOT ONE here. We're talkin' hotter than that magazine centerfold you're droolin' on. Hotter than a Jalapeno pepper sittin' on my Toyota radiator when the air conditioning is runnin' full blast. Even hotter than those hard little red crunchy things in your kung pow chicken. You know, those things that make steam come out of your ears and your eyes water and your tongue burn so much you want to lick an iceberg. This is hotter!

Vern, take it from me, Mr. Party Con-know-sewer: the Northern Virginia Shag Club's Third Annual Capital Shag Classic was the hottest thing on the East Coast June 26, 27, and 28. Just when I thought I had seen everything that those NVSC folks had to offer down in Myrtle Beach at S.O.S., what with their paradin' and dancin' and all, they turn around and teach this ol' dog that they can be like fine wine when it comes to hosting a primo party: you just don't want to let go of that bottle in your paper sack, even when it's done. Let me share some Classic highlights with you.

Things were jumpin' Friday night. The ballroom got real hot real fast, the music was hot 'cause the DJs definitely knew their stuff, and dancers -- moi included -- were dippin', drippin', flippin', slippin', even partially strippin'. Edna was on fire, lookin' hotter than I can talk about in a family publication like this one, if you catch my drift. They played some real funny games on the dance floor, a pack of party animals from Steel City 'was howlin', and I knew I had died and gone to shag heaven when lady DJ **Joanne Johnson** added to my sensory extravaganza of free pours, finger food, and **Dave Shipp's** souvenir T-shirts from earlier in the day.

Saturday, Vern, was so packed full of good stuff that it was even better than those contests to see how many marshmallows you can fit in your mouth before they start to ooze out down your chin. Even a man with my obvious mental and physical talents could not help but be impressed by how easy **Larry and Shirley Jones** made the basic shag lesson. Grand Nationals Junior Shag Division champions **Norman Aldredge** and **Leslie Melton** dazzled us all with their intermediate and advanced shag lessons. By early afternoon, those instructors had my brain pretty well drained, even before I added some alcoholic free pour fuel to the fire.

Things got even better after one of the most dee-lishus dinners you've ever stuck your fork in. We saw dance demonstrations that had my head spinnin'. There was **Larry Jones** and 1998 Shag Icon Award recipient **Earl Robinson**, a National Living Legend, taking turns trying to keep up while Hall of Famer and National Living Legend **Joanne Johnson** shook that thing. Living Legend **Craig Hutchinson** showed us Hustle moves that I might have been able to learn if his lovely wife, **Lucy Renzi**, had not been so darn distractin'. (Simmer down, Edna.) Those D.C. Hand Dancing gents like **Joe King**, **Steve Mitchell**, and **Greg Owens** with their incredible ladies got me and Edna thinking about maybe takin' a lesson or two to sort of broaden our dance rep-per-twah. Three styles of SHAG demonstrated by **Earl Robinson** and the lovely **Beverly Jones**; **Larry & Shirley Jones**; and **Norman & Leslie** were downright inspirational. I'm not sure we've got the energy to do much more than stand back in awe at those folks who showed us the Lindy and that Zydeco

thing, but they sure had our feet stompin' and our hearts racin' just watchin'. After dinner and demos, me and Edna shagged well past the midnight hour 'til all our little dogs were barkin' for relief.

By the time Sunday morning rolled around, I was glad to be able to cool my jets in the ballroom with a shag gospel hour and cleared-out dance floor. There was a mountain of sweet rolls for me and Edna 'cause many folks had left town early. Or maybe they were sleepin' late. Pity them not, for we did justice to those rolls. We also gave a silent prayer of thanks to whoever that kind soul was that took all the hot air with him.

So trust me on this one -- it's not too early to start thinkin' about gettin' in shape for the Fourth Annual Capital Shag Classic in 1999. Set aside the last weekend in June. Make plans now to wash your truck and grab your partner (or wash your partner and grab your truck). I don't know if **Gary Salpini**, **Dave Rapson**, and their crew can make that dance floor any better than they did this year -- it was as smooth as a Vaseline-covered baby's butt. And just think: by this time next year, NVSC will have even more members to party with. I get hot all over again just picturin' that. That means time to go, my amigo. Speakin' of smooth and hot, Vern: if you need me for anything, you can find me dancin', shaggin' on the boulevard...

To: Vesta Jones

Subject: Capital Shag Classic 98

Date: Sunday, June 28, 1998, 5:05 PM

I am here with Jerry Kovach, Sue Ellen Taddy, and Jane Kerr and want to send a fantastic Thank You for your wonderful hospitality at the recent Classic. All of us at Steel City Boogie Club had a fantastic time at the dance. We just got back to Pittsburgh and couldn't wait to write. Looking forward to ya'll all visiting us here in the Shag Capital of the North. Ya'll come up now, ya hear!! Paul Kerr

3rd Capital Shag Classic... by Valerie Swiger

As Classic Coordinator my job was to get the best people together, to make this event happen. To name all that contributed would fill up the **Shag Rag**. You know who you are.... You're wonderful, and the event could not have happened without you. THANK YOU.

This year's Classic is behind us and now it is time to think of the future. Do you know of any hotel with a banquet hall big enough to house our dance floor and leave room for dinner tables? We researched other possible locations, prior to going back to the Howard Johnson but just couldn't find one suitable that was also affordable. If you know of a location please write down the information and drop it in our suggestion box. We really need your input.

Thanks again to all who made the Classic a success.
Valerie

SHAGGERS & HAND DANCERS ... TOGETHER AT LAST!

NVSC and the MD, DC & VA Hand Dance Association will co-sponsor a dance at the VFW in Morningside, MD on August 8th. There will be a free shag lesson at 7:30.

Beach music will be provided by **Denny & Eddy**, 8:30 p.m.-12:30. Cover charge is \$5, with a cash bar.

Directions: From Woodrow Wilson Bridge take Exit # 9 Andrews AFB; turn Left on Allentown Road. At the traffic light, turn Left onto Suitland Road at McDonald's. Go 1 mile -- VFW is on the Left.

In Search Of ... Juniors! ... By Janis Grimes

NVSC is now a sponsor of the Junior Shaggers Association, and we'd like to take it a step further ... by offering FREE SHAG LESSONS to JUNIORS! That's anyone UNDER the age of 21. We are now in the process of bringing youngsters in this area together to learn to shag.

Do you know a young person who would enjoy learning to dance? Maybe you have a relative -- a child, grandchild, niece, nephew, cousin, godchild, or a child of a friend -- who would enjoy learning to shag, as well as benefit from the association with shaggers.

We're just getting started, and want to know how much interest there is here in a junior shag program. If you know someone who is under the age of 21, and would like to learn to shag -- please contact **Joan McKinney** at 703-971-7527, or **Janis** at 703-536-7362.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Instructional Shag Videos

The New Charlie & Jackie instructional videos are here!

Instructional Shag videos by **Charlie & Jackie**; **Sy Creed & Dana Brown**; **Ellen Taylor, Sonny & Judy Carver**, and **VA Beach Shag Club** members are available ON LOAN to NVSC members only wanting to brush up on their Shag steps. The Club will loan you a video for one week, **FREE OF CHARGE**. A refundable \$10 deposit permits you to view the tape for one week. A small charge of \$5 for each additional week is required.

The tapes available at Lulu's on Wednesday nights. See **Patricia Parrott** to check out tapes, or call her at 703-435-8906.

Happy, Happy Birthday

July Birthday Babies:

- 1 - Fred Whitman
- 3 - Sandra Feromy
- 4 - Lisa Anderson
- 4 - Larry Haller
- 7 - Brendan Anderson
- 8 - Doug Price
- 9 - Patricia Cable
- 10 - Larry Boyer
- 13 - Joan Salvadore
- 15 - Jean Sellers
- 15 - Helga Taranto
- 17 - William Devenney
- 17 - Tim Foster
- 22 - Donald Cook
- 23 - Nancy Christin
- 24 - Bill Tucker
- 25 - James Kirby
- 25 - Cyndi Strickland
- 26 - Jerry Crews
- 28 - Dickie Gee
- 29 - Vesta Jones
- 29 - Vaughn Royal
- 29 - Gary Salpini
- 29 - Karen Wagley
- 30 - Loeila Lutz
- 31 - John Eastes

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New Members in June

WELCOME, new members!! **Amy Allen, Thomas Edmonds, Bonnie Ginn, Dennis Heath, Carl Kapraun, Ann Smith**

Beach Music Radio

FM 100.7

Heading South? Tune in! There is a great beach music/oldies station out of Fayetteville, just past Emporia, VA.

FM 100.7, South of Emporia.....Yeah!!

NVSC WILL BUY A PAVER BLOCK!!

NVSC is purchasing a 16"x16" paver block, with our club logo, that will be installed on Main Street in North Myrtle Beach (as many other clubs have done). Individual bricks that will surround our block are available for members to purchase. This is an opportunity to have your name immortalized in Ocean Drive! See **Dave Shipp** on Wednesdays at Lulu's, Fridays at Legends, or call 703-569-9032, for further information. **Dave** has pictures of paver blocks and bricks for those who have not yet been to NMB.

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SOS Fall Migration

September 18-27 in North Myrtle Beach, S.C.

It's getting close to that time of year again. Shaggers -- time to head for Fall Migration at North Myrtle Beach, S.C., for ten full days of beach, sun, party, party, and dance, dance, dance -- as long as your feet and legs hold up!


You will need an S.O.S. pass (cost \$35) to be able to go back and forth between all the clubs and lounges (one year we counted twelve (12) dance floors within a few block radius!). You can order your SOS pass by calling toll free 1-888-767-3113. Passes also will be sold there in NMB, and it is well worth the cost, believe me! Come join the party at S.O.S. in Myrtle Beach ... Shag Mecca, a dancer's paradise.

Hotel and Condo Info in North Myrtle Beach:

- Ambassador East, 507 S. Ocean Dr. 803-249-3531
- Buccaneer, 401 S. OD 803-249-1466
- Helms Vista Motel, 300 N. OD 803-249-2521
- OD Beach & Golf Resort, oceanfront at Main Street (by Spanish Galleon) 800-438-9590
- Summer Sea Inn, 109 S. OD 803-249-4411
- Beachcomber Realty 800-334-3798
- Coastal Condos 803-280-0005
- Blockade Runner, 1910 N. OD 803-249-3561
- Days Inn North, 1321 S. OD 803-272-5131
- Marion Earl Motel, 1401 S. OD 803-272-5181
- Ocean Sands, 1525 S. OD 803-272-6101
- Red Tree Inn, 1415 S. OD 803-272-5353
- Sands Ocean Front, 74th Ave. N 800-845-6701
- Seaside Inn, 2301 S. OD 803-272-5166

• = Near Main Street

(If you can't get a room in NMB, there are plenty of places to stay a little further down the beach.)

 **!!Congratulations and Best Wishes!!**

to
Trelle Shaw and Harold Stephens
on the happy news of their marriage

and to
Barry & Carrington Wingard from SC
on the news of their recent marriage

Contest / Who Is Ernest??



Who is the droll wit behind the Ernest columns? Can you recognize this gifted humorist? Get out your May and June issues of the **Shag Rag**; read the articles by Ernest; name that writer -- and win! **First member to respond correctly wins a club t-shirt!** Leave a message for the Editor at 703-536-7362; or email your response to janigrimes@aol.com.

CLASSIFIED - Want Ads

Wanted: Volunteer for job of **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**. Creative Outlet for Enthusiastic Individual. A quality newsletter produced and distributed on time each month, in the ever-elusive pursuit of perfect copy, will be your reward. Interested in an exciting, challenging, and meaningful position, with opportunity for growth? *This could be the job for YOU!* Respond at once.

Wanted: **VIDEOGRAPHER** -- Are you (or do you know someone who is) skilled and/or knowledgeable about **videotaping**? Our Dance Instructors would like to meet with you! Please contact **Janis** at 703-536-7362.

The Shagmaster Says....

Bo Bryant of Foundation Books, and author of "SHAG," the book, the dance, the legend, recently announced that his new book on the Shag and Beach Music will be ready for release sometime this year. The Shag Shoppe at shagger.com will feature Bo's latest along with the already very popular first edition, "SHAG."

"Well, it's true that shaggers know how to have fun; they share an intense joy of life, respect for their heritage, and a fierce loyalty to family and friends."
-- **Bo Bryant**, author of "Shag, the Dance Legend"

From the Editor....



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'

