



Shag Rag

Dedicated to the Preservation of the Carolina Shag and Beach Music

December, 1998

Keep on Shagging'

Vol. V, No 12

President's Message---by *Vesta Jones*

APATHY IS NO WHERE IN SIGHT AT NVSC

Whew! Elections are behind us and the dust has begun to settle. The revised by-laws have been ratified and the new board of directors will begin serving the club January 1, 1999. Joan McKinney is your vice-president, Dennis Gehley - treasurer, Kathryn Quattrone - secretary, the directors at large are Betty Abshire, Janis Grimes, Craig Jennings, Heather Jennings, and H.K. Lee, and I will serve again as your president.

All of the excitement and energy that surfaced prior to elections was an example of why I've been so encouraged all year and continue to be so...our members are really interested in what is going on...members care and want to make a difference. Now that elections have come and gone, we can begin to channel that energy all in the same direction and have another banner year for NVSC.

I read the newsletters from all of the clubs, and visit many of them for weekend parties and 1-day events. As I have said many times, the shag community is a warm, friendly, fun-loving group of people. And what I see demonstrated more and more, here in NVSC, is not only a true love of the dance, and a love of the culture, but an enthusiasm for working to make it all happen.

Once again, let me say how proud I am to be part of this shag club and thank you for vote of confidence for another year. Now...let's have some fun!

NORTHERN VIRGINIA SHAG CLUB

Christmas Party



- * Date: **DECEMBER 12, 1998**
- * Time : 7PM to Midnight
- * Place: Springfield VFW
- * DJ: John Smith
- * Cost: **FREE** for members
- * \$5.00 for non-members
- * BYOB--- Beer and setups provided
- * **Directions:** From 495, take I- 95 South to exit 166A Newington /Ft. Belvoir. Get into left lane, turn left at stoplight onto Newington Road. Stay straight on Newington Road under one lane bridge. Go approximately 1/8 mile take hard left(almost U turn) onto Cinderbed Road, go approximately 1/2 mile (past Fairfax Water Authority), right on Hillpark Drive (industrial complex), go to end, turn left on Kincannon (VFW right there). Park anywhere.

January 9, 1999

Shag Workshop Jackie McGee and Charlie Womble.
Don't miss this wonderful workshop by these truly amazing instructors.

Volunteers NEEDED

Our annual Christmas party is scheduled for **December 12, 1998**.
If you are planning on attending and wish to help out, here is what is needed.

Decorating: Make decorations and set them up the day of the event.

Set Up: Come early and do final set up.

Food : Prepare dishes, serve and remove.

Table: Sit at entrance table, check off names of prepaid or take money for those paying at the door.

Clean Up: End of party clean up.

Circle the work crew that you wish to be a part of, place your **name** and **phone number** on this line _____ and return to **Betty Abshire** or place in the **suggestion box**.



SOS MEMBERSHIPS ARE ON SALE

Forms for your **1999 SOS** memberships are available on the club table every Wednesday night. Buying your membership through the club gives you a **\$5.00** discount. Return the completed form with a check for **\$30.00, made payable to NVSC**, to Dennis Gehley and in a very few weeks you will receive your new SOS card. **SOS, HERE WE COME!!!**

What is all the talk about DOTS????

If you plan to go to Mid-Winter (**THE** January shag event in North Myrtle Beach 1/15,16,17) you will need to have a **1999 dot** on your NVSC membership card. The event is open **ONLY** to members of shag clubs that are in good standing with the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs (ACSC) – SOS membership has nothing to do with this. Soooo... dust off your membership cards and be ready to receive the dots... we'll announce them on Wednesdays, as soon as we receive them.

ADVANCED LESSONS NOW OFFERED

There's something New! at Lulu's on **Wednesdays**, **FREE FOR MEMBERS ONLY**. In response to the requests from our veterans for more variety in the Wednesday lessons, the Dance Committee is trying to build an **Advanced Class** into our regular Wednesday night program. Rick Hendrix will continue his very well received Styling and Techniques class the first week of each 4-week session. Other instructors will teach a variety of advanced steps on the remaining Wednesdays.

In order to free up instructors and floor space for the **Advanced class**, we'll be combining the "Intro" class for brand new walk-ins with our regular Beginner class. This may challenge our instructors, but we're willing to try it, in response to the requests from members of our club. Members are encouraged to complete the 8-week Intermediate classes at least once before moving on to the Advanced lessons.

The **Sunday** sessions at Lulu's will continue each week, with an **Advanced** lesson at 6:00. This is a time to practice and share steps, and also a time to work with junior shaggers, from 5-8 each Sunday.

Saturday, October 3rd, was a great day for Shag in Virginia – **Michael Norris and Nikki Kontoulis** blew the roof off at the Virginia State Open, with a stunning performance in the Carolina Shag Division, and then took **FIRST PLACE** in the Overall competition (over all the other 1st place winners!).

Even though they had to dance to Lindy music at 200 beats per minute(!) they were clearly the best dancers there, and won the coveted trip to the US Open in November!

Congratulations and thanks to Michael and Nikki, for coming up here and showcasing for everyone the dance that we love... Also FYI, Michael Norris was the very first winner of the Rising Star Award, five years ago, when he was just a little pup....

Watch for results of the US Open in the January Shag Rag.

Veteran Shaggers don't forget to dance with our beginners. Those **"red - dots"** are their way of telling you they are **new** to our dance and want to learn.

NOVEMBER 14, Melody Wayland and Larry Boyer taught a beginning shag lesson at the **Bethesda Swing Dance**. The lesson was very well received by close to forty people. Thank you **Melody and Larry** for taking the time to teach our dance.

For members Only

Are you shy? Would you like to practice your dance steps in the privacy of your home.

Instructional Shag Videos — are the answer.

The club will loan you a video for one week, for a refundable \$10 deposit.

Videos by: **Charlie & Jackie; Sy Creed & Dana Brown; Ellen Taylor, Sonny & Judy Carver and VA Beach Shag Club Members.**

A small charge of \$5 for each additional week is required.

See **Patricia Parrott** to check out video, or call her at 703-35-8906.

The Rookie Shagger

The Hawaiian Bash sponsored by the Virginia Beach Shag Club was held at the Cavalier Hotel. This was the 9th annual party and a great one. We started Wednesday night by dancing at Stepping Out. Thursday brought shopping, a walk on the beach, dinner at the Jewish Mother Deli and then the dancing started at around eight PM. With more dancing on Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning.

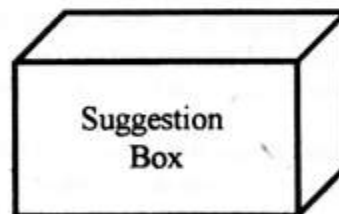
There is plenty of food and a fashion show luncheon. Clyde is selling Beach Music, vendors are selling shoes, tee shirts, dance apparel and there are many free pours. Three and half days of fun and dancing. Many shag clubs are represented from all over the East Coast, and I almost forgot, because this is the last weekend in October there are some of us who get dressed up in costumes.

Two big differences between this party and SOS, smaller number of people, approximately 700 and the dance is all in one large ballroom. Everything else is as wonderful, the music is the same as SOS and the folks from Virginia Beach make everyone feel welcome.

I attended my first Living Legends Party at Little Creek CPO MESS. I had the opportunity to talk and dance with many living legends in the dance community. I also was introduced to something I didn't understand before. WHY shaggers are so proud of this style of dance.

It starts out with a man showing respect to a woman and a woman accepting and acknowledging that respect. They dance together in harmony with music, respecting each other's space and at times mirroring each others steps, the dancing is fun but the major difference is that Shag when done correctly is pure CLASS. Thanks JANIS!!!!

THE ROOKIE SHAGGER WANT TO BE



Did you know we have a suggestion box? It's black, about the size of a shoe box and sits on the information table every Wednesday night.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

by Dennis M. Gehley

Some special things happened in the Northern Virginia Shag Club in 1998 that we should all feel good about.

First, our membership has been extremely generous in supporting this year's designated charity, Hospice of Northern Virginia. Beginning with a zero balance last December, we took the \$107 from last year's holiday party 50/50 money and opened a Charity account that has grown to over \$1,800. More donations will surely come between now and this year's party, at which time we give it all away! Many people also "went on record" by donating their charity dollars in return for those fine fancy records that Vesta Jones decorated and hung from the ceiling at this year's Capital Shag Classic.

Second, our members have been amazingly successful in maintaining a club that has attracted almost 100 new members during the first 11 months of this year, while keeping many (most?) of our 250 members from last December. The NVSC continues to be an exciting mix of orange-dotted "new kids", here for their first exposure to beach and shag music, mingling on the dance floor with charter members whom we see on almost a weekly basis - people like Larry Boyer, Larry Camp, Pauline Easby-Smith, Janis Grimes, Donna Harrington, Rick Hendrix, Liz Kestler, H.K.. Lee, Pat Parrot, Charlie Price, Ruth and Dave Rapson, and Gary and Sharon Salpini. In February 1999, we will be celebrating the 5th birthday of an idea that those dreamers and schemers kicked around in 1993 and got off the ground in 1994. Take time out every so often to thank those folks for doing what they did for us, way back when. All of them are aging gracefully.

Third, our members have wholeheartedly supported every single club special activity and function that this year's officers and Board members presented. Dave Shipp (NVSC's very own "Mr. T") spent many hours arranging for special club T-shirts in 1998 and polo shirts that will be THE hot fashion item in 1999. Artist Don Borja designed a club logo for the Capital Shag Classic that is the envy of the east coast. Everything with Don's logo on it seems to become an instant collectible. Virtually every single dance and workshop that NVSC sponsored from January through November was a moneymaker, thanks to all those who came out and supported us, both members and guests. With support like that, it was easy for the Board to decide that all our members deserved a free holiday party this year.

Fourth, our enthusiasm for beach music, shag dancing, and fellowship has started to spill over in many directions in the DC area. We continue to see some exciting crossover between the shag community and the DC Hand Dance communities. Denny Martin and Eddy Farmer, NVSC members, are much sought after for their DJ services in the hand dance community, while successful shag DJ's like Jerry Canada are being sought after by hand dancers. NVSC shaggers and hand dancers in the DC area are attending each others' events in growing numbers. Both contingents had a large charge at the Virginia Beach Shag Club's annual party this past October. Closer to our official home at Blackie's in Springfield, NVSC members have found another shagger-friendly spot to dance at on Friday nights and once a month at our Sunday socials - Oldies Music Legends in Manassas. Jake Willingham, Kathryn Quattrone, Valerie Henson, Pamela Alfano, Vaughn Royal, Dave and Sharon Shipp, and many other Blackie's regulars can be found dancing at Legends, where Dion ("The Hit Man") spins tunes while Dave Rapson and Gary Salpini talk about next year's dance floor and the good ol' days of the NVSC.

Fifth, that local NVSC enthusiasm made some waves at North Myrtle Beach this year. Spring S.O.S. brought us a trophy and cash for being the best marching unit in the parade, and Fall S.O.S. brought us a cash prize for being the club that sold the most goodies at the Company Store. Thanks in part to a perfect makeup job from Jean Jennings, a certain member of the NVSC just happens to be the reigning S.O.S. Miss Fun Monday for 1998-99. Mona Lott will jealously guard his/her sash until next September, when he/she must surrender the crown. Dave Shipp gets my vote for the sweetest-talking guy of 1998. Not only did Dave talk Fat Harold into putting up a NVSC plaque in his North Myrtle Beach club to join those from other clubs all over the country, but Dave also convinced the NVSC Board of Directors and the DC Hand Dance Association to invest in club logo bricks on Main Street at NMB -along with 27 individual bricks from NVSC and Association members. Look for those bricks during spring S.O.S. 1999.

Finally, I want to thank all those people who contributed behind the scenes to the club's success this year, but who prefer to remain anonymous. Just because we don't see you doesn't mean we don't value your contributions. We know you are out there. As Treasurer of a voluntary social club like ours, I particularly appreciate the support from those of you outside our geographic area who don't get to visit us often, if ever. We remember you and value your membership because, quite frankly, your dues help us to do what you want us to do as individuals and as a club: promote good fellowship and continued appreciation of beach music and the shag, wherever we are and wherever we go. I also feel pretty good when I see members and guests from far away, like my 10-4 good buddy Bemis Locklear from Atlanta, who taught me and my wife Nancy some of the finer aspects of S.O.S., such as sharing a condo with a DJ who brings a killer sound system and a carload of tunes with him. Also, Pamela's marguerites are to die for. You go girl! Sweet Betty!

So, special thanks to one and all. Feel good about what you did in 1998. Happy holidays everybody - bring on 1999! Let's give it up for the NVSC!

Shagger Profile---

Name: Elizabeth Edmonston
Nickname: Beth
Occupation: Administrative Assistant
Birthday: June 15
Hometown: Air Force "Brat" born in Alabama
Marital Status: Married
Motto: "You get what you give."
Dream: Hit the lotto
Inspiration: A newborn baby
Favorite Dance Tune: I don't do duets
by Patti LaBelle
Bad Habit: Smoking
Hobby: Dancing
Luxury Defined: Not to clean or work again.
Drink or Wine: Diet coke
TV Program: Old and current movies
Books at bedside: Cloths catalogues or People
Last Words: I love you, too!

Happy, Happy Birthday

December *Birthday Babies*

- 1 Angela Eppler
- 1 Diana DeMadaler
- 2 Jeffery Niemuth
- 4 Albert Martina
- 4 Ken Moreau
- 5 Lee Ann Woodcock
- 6 Barry Kumar
- 7 Robert Jones
- 8 Denise Bass
- 9 Melody Wayland
- 9 Jane James
- 10 Kathy Lewis
- 10 Harold Stephens
- 12 Joseph Laws
- 12 Shawn Lapinski
- 12 Cathy Metcalf
- 13 Frank DelPiano
- 13 Helen Bacumpas
- 14 Larry Jones
- 15 Amy Allen
- 17 Cindy Schneider
- 19 Dave Rapson
- 19 Carol Adler

Check to be Presented to Hospice of Northern Virginia at our Holiday Party

1998 was our first year to sponsor a charity, and the charity we identified in the November 1997 elections was the **Hospice of Northern Virginia**. Once all of our bills for the 1998 Capital Shag Classic were paid, subsequent money collected from 50/50 on Wednesdays, parties and Sunday Socials were deposited to our "charity account". Additionally, we sold records in our "go on record for charity" campaign (and we will be selling them again) and all the proceeds have gone into our "charity account." At this point in time we have almost **\$1800** in that account. The board voted to have as our goal for 1998 an amount of **\$2000**. We have a few more Wednesdays, but if the \$2000 balance is not reached, we will supplement the goal amount with the difference using a contribution from the general club account. Hopefully that will be a minimal amount... so... buy your 50/50's on Wednesdays and at the Christmas party. We will have a representative from the Hospice of Northern Virginia at the Christmas party to receive the check for \$2000. Next year, we hope to be able to make even a bigger difference. Thank you all for your help in this!

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Contact: Janis Grimes - 703-536-7362

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301-765-0995

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