



# Shag Rag

*Dedicated to the Preservation of the Carolina Shag and Beach Music*

January, 1999

Keep on Shagging'

Vol. VI, No 1

## President's Message—by Vesta Jones

### NEW TRAIT REVEALED AT NVSC HOLIDAY PARTY

We are a very warm and gracious shag club...we have the reputation of being good dancers...we have great fun...but a new trait has surfaced. The Northern Virginia Shag Club is very generous.

At the holiday party we presented a check for \$2000 to Hospice of Northern Virginia. Bill Meyers and Julie Wessel were our guests that night, representing Hospice. Bill graciously accepted the check, and was touched by our generosity. This officially launched our relationship with Hospice as sponsors of that organization.

That night was also a great start on the 1999 Club Charity Account...\$150 from 50/50 sales was deposited, as was an additional \$227 gathered from sales of records on our "Go On Record for Charity" program.

The records that had been sold during the year were used as part of the holiday decorations...they were glittery and festive, adorning the tables and walls and twisting and turning in a wonderful display at the entrance... and they demonstrated that the real spirit of the season is within the heart of NVSC all year long.

We will have our first real fund-raiser for charity...a Shag-a-thon... Feb. 6 at Springfield Mall. We will be able to use our love of this dance and this music to benefit an organization that provides a wonderful, caring service. Every penny donated will go to Hospice. Participate! Come dance for charity! Gather pledges! In the words of James Brown we will all be able to say... "I feel Gooood!"

## January 9, 1999

### Jackie McGee

and

### Charlie Womble

1996 U S Open Champions

9 Times National Shag Champions

Shag Hall of Fame Members

### 3 Shag Workshops

At Blackie's on Commerce Street Springfield, VA  
for directions call 703-971-4200

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| Beginning    | 11-12     |
| Intermediate | 1-2       |
| Advanced     | 2:15-3:15 |

Cost: Members \$10 per lesson/Non-members \$15 per lesson

## DANCE THAT NIGHT

Ft. Myer Community Center

Time 8-12

Cost: Members \$10 Non Members \$12

DJ Judy Collins from Myrtle Beach

\*Ft. Meyer is a military base - no alcohol sales are permitted  
BYOB Light Snacks provided

Directions: From the beltway in Virginia, RT. 50 east toward Arlington, exit Washington Blvd/Pentagon, go south to first exit on Right(Court House Rd/Fort Meyer). Turn left on Court House Road., turn left on 2nd Street to Ft. Myer. Go through Gate, turn left at first stop sign on McNair, to community center on the left.

1ST Annual Northern Virginia Shag Club

# Shag-A-Thon

February 6, 1999

12 Noon until 5:00 PM

at

Macy's Court, Springfield Mall  
Springfield, VA



- Prizes for participants!
  - Refreshments and Snacks galore!
  - Great music by NVSC DJ's!
- All proceeds from this event  
benefit

**HOSPICE OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA**

Participants are asked to raise money through  
pledges.

To register yourself and receive a pledge sheet call:

Heather Jennings 540-775-5342

or

Vesta Jones 301-765-0995

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## 1st Annual NVSC Shag-A-Thon! *by Heather Jennings*

On **February 6th** at Springfield Mall, the Northern Virginia Shag Club will sponsor the first annual Shag-A-Thon! The primary purpose of this event is to raise money for the club's charity, the **Hospice of Northern Virginia**, however by sponsoring the event at Springfield Mall, we also hope to promote the dance we love and attract new members to the shag club.

So, how does this Shag-A-Thon work? First - **sign up** on any Wednesday night prior to the event. After signing up, you will receive a **pledge sheet**. Take the pledge sheet to as many friends, family and coworkers as possible and ask them to "sponsor" you for this event. By sponsoring you, they agree to pay a certain amount for each dance you have during the event or they may choose to make a flat donation. (Note that the Shag-A-Thon is *not an endurance event* - you may dance as many or as few dances as you like.) Have each sponsor fill out the pledge sheet with their name, address, and pledge amounts. Please try and get as many pledges as possible! Prizes will be awarded to those collecting the largest amounts!

On the day of the event, **bring your pledge sheet** (and your dancing shoes!) to the Shag-A-Thon. When you arrive at the Shag-A-Thon you will be given a "Pin On" number - then **DANCE, DANCE, DANCE** and have fun! As you dance, one of our club members will note your number on a participation sheet in order to count your dances. The first Wednesday after the event, your pledge sheet will be returned to you with the "**Balance Amount**" calculated for each sponsor. (number of dances \* amount per dance). Then return to each sponsor, collect the pledged amount, and turn in your pledge money to the club by **Wednesday, March 3, 1999. ALL proceeds** from the event will be given to **Hospice of Northern Virginia!!** It's that simple!!

So please, if you're interested in participating in this event, come see me (**Heather Jennings**) at the table next to the DJ booth any Wednesday this month! Thanks so much and see you at the **Shag-A-Thon!**

## Thank You

by Betty Abshire

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the club members for their support in putting on the best **Christmas party** ever. Over 135 were in attendance, made up of hand-dancers, swing dancers and regular members, plus out-of town visitors from Richmond and one person came all the way from Pittsburgh.

Joan McKinney and her crew did an outstanding job of converting a cold, drab, oversized room into a warm festive party room. (I understand, that some of her assistants are on the professional decorating level. Could this be an opening for new members to take up a committee?????) Unless you have assisted, you have no idea what a sacrifice it is for the decorating chairperson to have their basement filled with all that goes into making centerpieces, ect. It took two trucks to haul all the decorations to and from the party.

Jane James did a great job of having friendly greeters sit at the door, in short shifts, so that they did not miss much of the festivities.

Craig Jennings came up with our DJ, John Smith, who added "fun" to the great music. He kept us dancing all night long.

To our general membership, thanks for the wonderful array of food. If anyone went away hungry, it was your own fault. Plus, your generous contributions to the Hospice of Northern Virginia, have given us a great start toward next years goal.

I really appreciate the many voices of "Thanks, a job well done" - you are a great audience to play to.

## Santa Claus pays surprise visit to NVSC!

The Wednesday after the Holiday Party, Santa Clause showed up at shag... ho-ho-hoing... and looking very jolly... the voice was familiar... and it was finally revealed that it was **Bill Meyers**, our new friend from **Hospice of Northern Virginia**... coming to thank us again for our generosity.

## Praise from Down South!!

By Craig and Heather Jennings

**John Smith**, our guest DJ for the **Christmas party**, contacted us recently and thanked us for the opportunity to play for our club. He stated that he had a wonderful time and would gladly play for us again! (Even said he didn't mind the 6 hour drive, the party was that good).

## Reprint from Article Submitted to the Steel City Boogie Club

by Jack Williams

During a recent trip to the Washington DC area, I had the opportunity to attend the Northern Virginia Shag Club's weekly Wednesday night dance. They start with workshops for beginner, intermediate and advanced shag. The intermediate class was taught by Craig and Heather Jennings, who are excellent dancers and members of the Competitive Shaggers Association. Their instruction of the pivot and crossover basic was very thorough, interesting and enjoyable. In addition to being an instructor, Craig is a member of the Association of Beach & Shag Club DJ's and the primary DJ for the Northern Virginia Shag Club.

After the classes the regular dancing began. The people were so nice and the music and dancing so good that I joined the club and was invited, by Betty Abshire, Social Committee Chairman, to attend the club's Christmas party, December 12.

On Saturday afternoon I left Pittsburgh for the party. When I arrived I was greeted at the door by a friendly couple who welcomed me and checked off my name. The hall was beautifully decorated with lights, wreaths and a Christmas tree making for a wonderful Christmas atmosphere. I was immediately greeted by Valerie Swiger, membership chairman and Vesta Jones, newly re-elected club president. The DJ for the night was John Smith who played outstanding music while making an interesting commentary. Betty Abshire invited me to sit with her and some friends, Jane and Jake. In spite of her extensive duties at the party, Betty always found time to answer my questions and dance with me. And can she dance! The excellent buffet of food was all prepared and brought in by the members of the club. I had a little bit of everything.

At intermission the club presented a check for \$2000 to the Hospice of Northern Virginia, the club charity. Then they had the 50/50 drawing and drew door prizes. I won a nice picture frame. After the intermission there was a shag demonstration given by Larry and Shirley Jones, Craig and Heather Jennings, Bill Hopkins and Janis Grimes and Earl Robinson and Beverly Jones. The dancing was amazing! Earl Robinson is a member of the Shaggers Hall of fame and it's easy to see why. He is so smooth, and he does what seems like impossible things with his feet. All the shaggers in the demonstration were very good.

The dancing continued until after midnight. NVSC members are very friendly, always have a smile and a nice thing to say. If you are in the Springfield, VA area some Wednesday night, stop at Blackie's. You'll see some real shaggers and you won't find nicer people anywhere.

I'd like to thank the members of the NVSC for their hospitality, especially Betty Abshire, Valerie Swiger, Vesta Jones, Shirley Jones, Jane James, Jake Willingham, Earl Robinson and lot of others whose names I don't know. I hope I can return the hospitality at the **Boogie in Burgh**, weekend party, put on by the Steel City Boogie Club, **March 5,6,7, 1999**. It should be a great weekend party.

## Shagger Profile---

**Name:** Steve Booth  
**Nickname:** "Steve"  
**Occupation:** Sales/Industrial Plastics  
**Birthday:** March 8  
**Hometown:** Richmond, VA  
**Martial Status:** Divorced  
**Self Portrait:** Gentlemen Shagger  
**Motto:** "Never Muddy The Waters;  
You may have to come back to drink"  
**Dream:** O.D. by Zooz with Soulmate  
**Inspiration:** Janis Grimes  
**Favorite Dance Tune:** "Tired of being your Fool"  
by Bill Pickney  
**Bad Habit:** I talk too much.  
**Hobby:** Shagging  
**Luxury Defined:** Shagging at Duck's at O.D. at SOS  
**Drink or Wine:** Bourbon & Ginger Ale  
**TV Program:** Seinfeld  
**Books at bedside:** "Confederacy of Dunces"  
"Looking out for #1"  
**Last Words:** "Nice Guys do finish First"

## Happy, Happy Birthday

### January Birthday Babies

1 Jeannie Albaugh  
1 Jimmy Iliffe  
2 Sam Lewis  
6 Norma Wark  
7 Phyllis Schulte  
9 Craig Jennings  
9 Janis Grimes  
11 Lorraine Busey  
13 Teresa Debates  
14 Ruth Browne  
14 Marc Fisher  
14 Gay Harris  
14 Richard White  
16 Pauline Easby-Smith  
17 Alexandra Hanson  
18 Edwin Batchellor  
21 Liz Kestler  
23 Charles Price  
27 MaryAnn Lerch  
29 JT Price  
29 Ken Tyler  
30 Margie Bryce

### Intermediate Dance Steps for January

Jan 6 - Side to Side Basic; Shag Pivot (and Whip Pivot)  
Jan 13 - Double Kick Basic; Front Prep with Lean  
Jan 20 - Stutter Basic; Duck Walk  
Jan 27 - Back Prep; Sugarfoot

### NEW MEMBERS IN DECEMBER

Jeane Batchellor, Steven Booth, Chris Cole, Rick Coles, Arthur Curry, Diane Eppinger, Olivia Estep, Gay Harris, Martie Leonette, Jeannie Pope, Glen Pyles, Ellen Testa, Adrian Vandang, Brenda White and Jack Williams

## 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!!!**

## JANUARY 15,16,17---MID WINTER

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 MID-WINTER CLASSIC 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.

**THE CARDS ARE HERE.  
SEE VESTA OR VALERIE**

**Lost and Found**-----4 pairs of glasses and 1 pair of sunglasses(all generic) are at the club's information table.

## 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 703-435-8906.

**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.

## U.S. Open-- SHAG HAS IT'S DAY

*from unknown publication*

The U.S. Open lived up to it's expectations with a few new twists. **Shag** really made a major impact with wins in the Team, Young America, and Classic Divisions.

Five absolutely stunning performances in the **Young America 13-17 year old division**. Young America reigning champions Matt Auclair & Megan McKeegan performed a brilliant routine but it was not enough to catch the crowd's favorite **Norman Aldredge and Leslie Melton**. This hot junior couple put Shag to the test. They had the audience in the palm of their hands with the fastest feet and a real "all american" kind of cuteness that brought the audience into their performance. Shag came to the US Open with superstars **Charlie Womble and Jackie McGee**.

**Classic Division**---- the winners were **Brent and Kellese Key**. Brent coming from a Shag background, combined with the beautiful and stunningly sexy dancing of Showcase Swing Champion Kellese, put together a "Swag" routine that left us breathless.

Another hot performance, probably one of the crowd favorites, was 4th place Classic division **Michael Norris & Ginger Pickerel**. Shag again was loose on the crowd.

**Sam and Sarah West** took home the 1st place trophy for the Shag division and their team- the **National Shag Team** also won.

Showtime Invitational Division --- This was a new division at the Open. 5 couples were invited to compete. **Charlie Womble and Jackie McGee** showed us really how to Shag, with some new sexy shag steps that the kids are going to try to steal.

## ADVANCED LESSON; PRACTICE; SHARE STEPS - 5:30 SUNDAYS

*by Janis Grimes*

The practice session at Lulu's EVERY SUNDAY starts at 5:00, with an **Advanced Lesson** at 5:30, beginning **January 3rd**.

This is a time to practice and share steps, and also a time to work with junior shaggers, from 5 -7 each **Sunday**.

The cost for the **Advanced Lesson** is \$5 per person (which will go into our club treasury); **EXCEPT** that **juniors and young adults** (through age 25!) are encouraged to learn and practice for **FREE!**

Everyone is welcome to learn, share and brush up on their dancing.

**January 9, 1999-----Shag Workshop  
with Jackie McGee and Charlie Womble**

**February 6, 1999-----Shag-A-Thon, 12 Noon to 5PM, Macy's Court, Springfield, VA.**

**OTHER LOCAL REGULARLY SCHEDULED DANCING**

**Every Sunday:** Advanced Shag Lessons, Blackies, 5-7 PM, lesson at 5:30, cost \$5.00

**Third Sunday of every month:** Oldies Music Legends, Manassas, VA 2:00 - 5:00 Beach & Shag Music

**Fourth Sunday of each month:** MD DC VA Hand Dance will host a dance, Decoy Lounge at the Colony South Hotel, RT.. 5, Clinton, MD:  
Hand Dance Lessons 3-4PM, dancing 4-8PM

**Sundays:** Vienna Tap & Grill, 146 E. Maple, Ave., Vienna, VA \$10 WCS Lessons, 6:00 - 8:00 then dance till 11:00, or \$8.00 includes dance & drinks 8:00 - 11

**Tuesdays:** Best in Beach Music w/Denny and Eddy, Coconuts, Crofton, MD; information 301-261-3366

**Wednesdays:** FREE SHAG LESSONS 7:30, Northern Virginia Shag Club, Lulu's Blackie's, Springfield, VA; information 703-971-4200

**Thursdays:** Galaxy, Hillwood Ave., Falls Church, VA, 8:00 - 11:00, Kenny Roesel; \$5.00 cover.

**Thursdays:** Beach Music Night at Nick's, S. Pickett, Alex., VA 7:30- 11:00, DJ Charlie Price, \$3.00 door (info 703-751-8900)

**Fridays:** Oldies Music Legends, Manassas, VA 6:00 - 10:00 Beach & Shag Music

**Saturdays:** Bethesda Swing Dance, 4916 St. Elmo Ave., Bethesda, MD Cost \$7 Dance from 8:30 to Midnight

**Out of Town Shag Events**

**First Sunday - Shag at Stepping Out in Virginia Beach, VA. Lessons 4-5 PM, food, dance 5-9 PM**

**Sundays- Shag at Visions in Richmond, Holiday Inn at Koger Center, 7-10 PM**

**Tuesdays - Richmond Shag Club dances at RAZZLES Lounge, Best Western, 9848 Midlothian, Tnpk, 804-330-0007.**

**Wednesdays - Shag at Stepping Out in Virginia Beach, VA, lessons 7-8 PM, dance 8-12PM**

**January 1-3, 1999- Hilton Head Island, SC Island Winter Classic IV, Marty or Pat Hughes, 843-681-2832**

**January 14-17, 1999-Mid Winter Beach Classic, North Myrtle Beach, SC**

**February 5-7, 1999-Foothills Winter Boogie XII, Lake Hickory Shag Club, Ann Sigmon 828-324-6122**

**February 26-28, 1999- ACSC Winter Workshop and party, North Myrtle Beach, SC**

**February 26-28, 1999-Capital Area Shag Club's Winter Shag Blast, Sheraton Atlantic Beach, SC**

**March 5-7, 1999- Boogie in Burgh, by Pittsburgh Steel City Boogie Club, Jerry Kovach 412-825-0301**

**March 25-28, 1999-Smoky Mountain Boogie, call Betty Ladwig (423) 539-2275**

For more events call 1-800-SHAGGER or the Southern Shagger web site or [Shagdance.com](http://Shagdance.com) or check out the Northern Virginia Shag Club web site [www.sbolnet.com/shag](http://www.sbolnet.com/shag)

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