



Shag Rag

Dedicated to the Preservation of the Carolina Shag and Beach Music

April, 1999

Keep on Shagging'

Vol. VI, No 4

Did you ever wonder... by Vesta Jones

What are we going to do tonight? Today? This weekend? Jeez, I wish we could find someplace to DANCE!!! DOES ANYBODY KNOW SOMEWHERE TO DANCE????

That doesn't seem to be a problem around here these days... as a matter of fact, instead we have to choose our nights... or days... or do them all!!!

This weekend was a perfect example: an all day workshop with the infamous Larry-and-Shirley-Jones pro shaggers (a big success), a dance Sat. night with Dennis and Nancy dee-jaying (another success)... then our regular third-Sunday-of-the-month Sunday Social (with advanced lessons to follow) on the 21st. Plenty of us braved the rain to enjoy time together, good tunes, good food, shaggin' and lots of fun.

Although this March weekend was full to the brim, it has just been an example of how hard we're working to give our shaggers every opportunity to learn from the best and to dance and enjoy each other. It's the shag club that organizes all these events, coordinates places, and instructors, and dee-jays, and food for the parties. There are lots of other opportunities to dance and have fun in the area, but it's the continuous, reliable efforts of the shag club over the past five years as well as now that keeps the shag alive and well (and flourishing!) here in the DC area.

As I have said before, I am continually amazed by the level of energy and enthusiasm of our club members. It is through the efforts of every single person that this all happens! (Thank you, Dave Shipp, for taking care of all these club shirt orders!...and Jake, for always being there to help with the parties...no matter what needs to be done!) If now is not a good time for you to contribute your time and effort on a committee or to help out, well just show up at club events and dance and enjoy your friends. There will always be an opportunity in the future. And the reality is that as some of us finish our time at the helm, there are always others with new energy and new ideas ready to step in.

These are good times, and I'm glad to be part of them. Let's SHAG!

April 10, 1999 No Frills Dance

Time: 8 to midnight
Cost: \$8 for members
\$10 for non members
DJ: "Shooter Dudes"

Craig Jennings and Larry Jones

Chips and lemonade provided
Beer by the glass 75 cents
Bring your own wine or hard liquor

Location: Springfield, VFW

Take 495, to I-95 South to exit
166A(Newington/Ft. Belvoir)

*Get into the left lane, turn left at stop light on to Newington Road.
Stay straight on Newington Road under one lane bridge.
Go approximately 1/8 mile, take hard left (almost a U
turn) onto Cinderbed road, go approximately 1.2 miles,
right on Hillpark Drive(industrial complex), go to the end,
turn left on Kincannon (VFW on right)*

"What's happenin' Brother Toe?...!" The gently falling cadence of this casually hilarious greeting from a tall, elegant black gent was directed to none other than the singular (and portly) person of "Big Toe," the amiable gents' room attendant at ... Studebaker's of Myrtle Beach! My oldest son, Alex, saw this priceless vignette when we were at "the Prelims" -- the first round of the National Shag Dance Championships, January 29th and 30th. As always, I remain fascinated and overwhelmed that the most beautiful dancing in the Southeast (verily, the United States) can be seen for the mere sum of \$10 per person on the checkerboard tile dance floor of Studebaker's.

This was my first trip to the Nationals, with four couples from NVSC competing, I couldn't miss this event. **Janis Grimes and Bill Hopkins, Craig and Heather Jennings, Earl Robinson and Beverly Jones, and Larry and Shirley Jones** were amongst the notables in the highly charged atmosphere of shag's top annual event. It is no mean trek from Northern Virginia to O.D., but watching the top dance floor talent in the Southeast gear up was worth it. Among the stars present were, of course, Miss Ellen Taylor, Jackie and Charlie, Norman Aldredge and Leslie Melton, junior comers Grant Garmon and Leah Sanderson, and swing superstars Kellese and Brent (homeboy!) Key, recently relocated from Richardson, Texas back to Myrtle Beach. We found a spot three rows back from the \$200 floor-side tables, joining Karen and Grant Garmon as our base of operations.

As the competition began, the level of electricity rose as Alex, Janis and I watched couple after couple perform -- at times -- astounding levels of artistry. Craig and Heather performed seamlessly to "Good Looking Baby" by the Orioles. Janis and Bill drew the fourth from final spot and danced to "I Used to Cry Mercy, Mercy" straight up. Earl and Bev, who were prequalified for the competition, were slated to do an exhibition dance, but had to cancel due to illness. Of course, as pros, Larry and Shirley could enjoy the evening schmoozing the crowd -- without qualification!

I had the good fortune of renting a condo on 11th Street from RSC pals Doug and Mary Ellen Anderson, and we collapsed there Friday night. The pivotal day -- Saturday -- was taken up early with rehearsals for Bill and Janis in the commodious kitchen of our digs. I marveled at their calmness, considering the pressure building for the night's performance.

Studebaker's was even more packed Saturday night. The electricity level was up considerably. The order of dancers was reversed from Friday, so Bill and Janis were up fourth. The first three couples got the crowd focused, and when Janis and Bill took the two steps up to shag Big Time, the timing was right for their performance to "Boogie the Joint" by Buddy Skipper. Their execution was relaxed, energetic and precise, and well received by the crowd. Craig and Heather danced midway at the tenth spot to "Brand New Baby" by Lester Williams. Again they presented a clean, defined and well rehearsed routine.

During both nights, there were breaks in the competition and we all took maximum advantage of the pure pleasure of dancing with both regular partners and old friends. Janis and I made a special effort to keep Alex busy on the floor, his dance card filled rapidly.

We were all disappointed when neither of our couples made the cut, but continued with the joyousness of shag at Ducks after the competition. Alex started at the top, dancing with Miss Ellen Taylor, Jackie McGee and Leah Sanderson. We left the next day in an exhausted daze, but looking forward to seeing the finals in March, with two NVSC couples still to compete...

The finals at Studebaker's had an entirely different atmosphere than "The Prelims." There was bleacher seating to accommodate the bigger throng and even more dance stars. The absolute best shaggers were dancing at their peaks. Our representatives -- Earl and Bev, Larry and Shirley, danced Thursday and Friday with precision, ease and beauty. Earl's ability and repertoire of footwork and leads is legendary, and did not disappoint. Larry and Shirley performed elegantly, punctuated with hyper smooth pivot variations. Alas, neither couple made the final cut... thus the stage was set for Saturday night.

With our group were Janis and I, Alex, Janis's daughter, Jessica (in from Clemson), her friend, Elvis, Madame President Vesta, Greg Owens, Gay Proctor, and Cynthia Trueheart. Floorside, Susie Beaver received a steady stream of friends, admirers and well-wishers. She is much improved and it was good to see her where she belongs. Alex headed straight for the gents' room to sneak a smoke and greet "Big Toe." We all took full advantage of intermission floor times, even though I remained intimidated by the level of talent present.

Non-competition highlights: The very emotional presentation of the Beth Mitchell Scholarship to Mandy Holt; the absolutely electrifying performance of the triple-champ National Shag Dance Team; Brent and Kellese Key's mesmerizing swing/shag exhibition at breakneck speed (go on to Hollywood, Brent!); and the wide open, neo-Lindy Hop hand-dancing of Mell Waller and Antonio Bruton (DC's finest).

Probably the most beautiful and endearing sight (besides watching Alex and Jessica shag together) was the Junior Division 1 dancing. Then there was Division II, and we screamed and stomped for Grant Garmon and Leah Sanderson -- and they placed fourth! Our second pair of sentimental favorites, Norman and Leslie, placed third, with second place going to Grayson Smith and Jessica McAlhany. Yes, Michael Norris and Leann Best won the Junior Division. Sam and Sarah West won the Pro Division, and Chuck Jenkins and Mandy Holt won the Non-Pro (they righteously deserved it!)... and the after-finals party at Ducks was a beautiful blur, watching Sheila Bodie and Norfleet Jones, Nikki Kontoulas and Leslie Melton, and Janis dancing with Alex. While you may keep your own score card and disagree with the judges, the finals are a Southeast cultural event that every shagger needs to experience... See you on the dance floor!

Are you Going to SOS???????
Have you purchased your
SOS PASS????

DON'T FORGET TO TAKE IT

There are no refunds or replacements. If
you forget your pass you will have to
purchase a new one.

Hotel and Condo Info in North Myrtle Beach:

• Ambassador East, 507 S. Ocean Dr.	803-249-3531
• Buccaneer, 401 S. OD	803-249-1466
• OD Beach & Golf Resort	800-438-9590
• Summer Sea Inn, 109 S. OD	803-249-4411
• Coastal Condos	803-280-0005
• Lewis Realty	800-334-3390
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, 2310 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.*

The Classic is Coming

The Northern Virginia Shag Club's
weekend party is scheduled for
July 23, 24 and 25.

A weekend of dancing, eating, workshops
AND FUN.

If you are planning on staying at
the hotel, make your reservation,
NOW.

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.

ACSC Spring Parade at SOS will be April 24 at 2:00

Northern Virginia Shag Club members, we need you. Are
you going to SOS???? Will you be there for the parade????
Would you like to be in the parade??? We have some **GREAT**
IDEAS for costumes for those who **REALLY** like to have fun.

If you are interested in working on this, contact Valerie Swiger
(703-281-9193) or Pauline Easby-Smith (703-759-4479)
...don't forget we won **FIRST** place in the marching division
last year. In addition to loads of fun, it meant a nice first place
check towards our treasury, a nifty trophy and a bit of notoriety
for our very own "Juke on the Loose!"

See our website for pictures www.sbolnet.com/shag.

WORKSHOPS A SUCCESS... by Janis Grimes

Our shag workshops on Saturday, March 20th, with LARRY &
SHIRLEY JONES of Richmond were a solid success. We had
an enthusiastic turnout in spite of the beautiful weather, and we'll
soon be seeing the result of this instruction on the dance floor.

The basic class was outstanding as always, and the new steps
they taught in the intermediate and advanced workshops were
cool and easy to learn because of their excellent teaching
techniques.

The Saturday night dance party was well attended, and the food
was really wonderful! Thanks to Betty Abshire for all the
arrangements she made so that we could have this party. Thanks
also to Dennis and Nancy (line dance queen) Gehley for
providing the music and entertainment. The trivia quiz was
interesting and fun. RICK HENDRIX and LARRY CAMP were
the winners. And BOB LUTZ won the 50-50!!

Just back from the Shag Nationals in Myrtle Beach, Larry and
Shirley performed several beautiful demos. They are very
smooth shaggers who have won numerous contests. We are
very grateful to them for all the time and attention they have
given to our club.

Many thanks also to our own instructors who showed up early to
help out: Rick Hendrix, Steve Booth, John Mullen, Vesta Jones,
Dennis Gehley, Don and Audrey Borja, David Rodgers and
especially to Valerie Swiger, who provided the essential lists and
hosted Larry and Shirley at her home.

Shagger Profile---

Name: Cristina Lee Gaines
Nickname: Cris
Occupation: Environmental Engineer US EPA and Mary Kay Consultant
Birthday: January 25
Hometown: Acton, Massachusetts
Marital Status: Happily Married
Self Portrait: Assertive, fun, loving, competent, intelligent, energetic and blessed with a wonderful family
Motto: I can do it!
Dream: To become a full time Mary Kay director and quit my other job.
Inspiration: Mary Kay director, Margaret Neill
Favorite Dance Tune: Mony Mony
Bad Habit: Drive like Mario Andretti
Hobby: Singing, sports, gardening
Luxury Defined: Not commuting to any job again
TV Program: All My Children
Books at Bedside: The Part Time Solution
Last Words: Life is too short-get out of my way or come with me.

Happy, Happy Birthday

April Birthday Babies

- 1 Sam Martin
- 1 Dick Wagner
- 2 Dallas Campbell
- 2 Chris Cole
- 5 Ronald Reid
- 5 Linda Terry
- 5 Joyce Yarborough
- 7 Kitty Senge
- 8 Joyce Kennon
- 10 Beth Endres
- 12 Judy Lynch
- 12 Kathryn Quattrone
- 13 A. J. Nowaskey
- 15 Jennifer Luzietti
- 15 Grace Weber
- 19 Bemis Locklear
- 22 Lisa Brachman
- 22 Rita Perrotti
- 25 Joan Byrnes
- 26 Ron Meadows
- 27 Bonnie Torguson

NEW MEMBERS IN March

Joe Cornish, Jacqueline Condakes, Russell Gauber, Buddy Hicks, Mary Lenehan, Judy Lynch, Jennifer Luzietti, Ginger Rouse, Frederick Smolen, Serena Thrower, Robert Ward

Did you hear?

Valerie Swiger is a grandmother.
Brian Jose Acosta was born
March 23, 1999

Board meetings are held each month and are open to any and all members who wish to attend. Unless put on the agenda, attendance is for observation, not participation. Since board meetings, at this time, are at board members homes, please alert the secretary (Kathryn Quattrone) if you are interested in attending.

Thank You

DJ's for the coming weeks:

- April 7 Craig Jennings
- April 14 Dennis & Nancy Gehley
- April 21 Charlie Price
- April 28 Craig Jennings
- May 5 Dennis & Nancy Gehley

Do you have a favorite song? Ask your DJ to play it. If you hear a song you really like and may want to request it, sometime in the future, go up to the DJ booth and ask the song title. Our DJ's are always interested in hearing from you and will do their best to play the songs you request.

Intermediate Dance Steps for April

- April 7 F turn/Side-by-Side; Belly Roll; Kick Basic
- April 14 Side pass; Boogie Walk; Boogie Train
- April 21 Tuck; from Pivot; Hesitation Basic
- April 28 Pivot; Side-to-Side Basic

THE ROOKIE SHAGGER

When the Editor and I discussed this article, we agreed to direct it to or focus the content to the newer members. I was new to the club and the idea was to show how quickly a new person could get involved in the shag world. I wanted to show how exciting this new experience could be. I realize that not everyone has the desire, energy or the time to do all the things I have done in the past 15 months, for me it has been GREAT!

The Dance community is a wonderful way to meet new people, travel around the country and keep yourself FIT. I enjoy all the places I have been and all the new friends I have made. I enjoy sharing my experiences with the Readers of the Shag Rag and I will try to keep it interesting. I have included many long standing members in my articles because they are the wisdom and the foundation of the Dance Community.

This past weekend we went to Pittsburgh, for "Boogie in the Burgh". When I say we, the NVSC was well represented: Jeane & Ned, Nancy & Dennis, Helga & Rick, Donna & Keith, Dave & Ruth, Gary & Sharon, Mary & Larry, Vaughn, Louise, Donna, Pamela, Betty, Valerie & Bob, ETC. at this first ever event. The music was good and the workshops consisted of: Shag (Sara/Sam West), Swing/Swag Jill/Eddie, and Butch/Betty Bop/Boogie. We had great food, reasonable priced drinks and a good floor to dance on. The music went on until 1 AM every night and the DJ's offered a good mix to keep all the different styles of dancer happy. The NVSC was complimented many times by the Steel City Boogie Club (SCBC) when they repeatedly commented that they tried to mimic the things that we do at our CLASSIC.

I am looking forward to the March 20th, Shag Workshop with Shirley & Larry Jones and The Nags Head Paradise Lagoon Party at the end of the Month.



BOOGIE IN THE BURGH by Mickey Hostetler

Picture this: You've just driven for 5 hours on a cloudy winter's afternoon. It wasn't a bad drive. There was plenty of beautiful scenery on the way from Maryland into Pennsylvania. You sneak a peak at some snow-capped hills, weather-beaten barns, big farm houses, and lots of little towns along the way. But you were a bit tired by the time you pulled into Greentree, PA, for the First Annual Boogie in the Burgh. It was 4:00 p.m. and as you lifted your suitcase from the car, you felt the urge to steal a quick nap after registering at the hotel. You walk across the hotel lobby and are greeted by the friendly clerk. But wait? What was that sound coming from behind a closed ballroom door? Was that music? Bop music? You can't help but tilt your head and the sound, motioning to the front desk clerk that you'd be back in a moment. Before you realize it, you are opening the door that would permit you to get closer to the beautiful music. Voila! The door opened and inside you find a dream come true: People dancing! People laughing! And that music sounds even better! Amazingly, in about four seconds, you also find your energy level returning. Were you still contemplating that nap? I don't think so! You were thinking about dancing!

Welcome to Boogie in the Burgh. Pittsburgh, that is. And we all know what boogie is—slang for dancing to rock and roll music. But there was much more than that. There was BOP, beach music, swing, and jitterbug. And spinning all that great music were some fabulous disc jockeys: Bernie "the Spider" Snyder from Pittsburgh, Don "Tootie" Brown from Mooresville, NC, and Ron Wallace from Louisville, KY. They each did an incredible job of filling the room with music that made you want to dance. And if anyone wanted to brush up on his or her dance steps, or learn new ones, there were great instructors available to teach. Sam and Sarah West from Hamlet, NC, showed us how to do the shag and shag patterns for west coast swing; Butch and Betty Berrey from Jacksonville, FL, illustrated the beach BOP, and Jill Mann and Ed Freed from Miami, FL, taught us some techniques for emulating their great attitude and style.

Dance styles include the jump, shag, west coast swing, east coast swing, jitterbug, St Louis Imperial swing, the bop, and the Lindy.

And if great music and dancing weren't enough to satisfy even the most demanding dance fan, there was also great food. And great food. And more great food. Get the picture? And afterward one could go shopping without even leaving the building. Now that's convenience. Marlene and her Traveling Boutique provided ample choices in gorgeous dance clothes and jewelry. Other merchants also were on-hand to sell tee shirts, shoes, and CD's.

Representatives from various dance clubs abounded: Cincinnati Bop Club, Buckeye Bop Club from Columbus, OH; Chicago Windy City Jitterbug Club; Cleveland Swing and Hustle; Great Lakes Swing Dance Club; Here to Dance from Cleveland; Jacksonville Beach Bop Association; MD/DC/VA Hand Dance from Baltimore, MD; Metropolitan Washington, DC Hand Dance; Preservation Society from Washington, DC; Northern Virginia Shag Club; Ohio's North Coast Jitterbug Connection; Richmond Shag Club; Southern New England Shag Club from Rhode Island; Virginia Beach Shag Club, and the Tampa Bay Beach Boppers.

From Friday afternoon to the closing on Sunday, everyone had a ball. New friends were made. Old friends were embraced. There was great camaraderie to say the least. Suffice to say that this wonderful weekend party was a big success and thanks go out to the Steel City Boogie Club which was responsible for putting it all together. The Event Committee obviously worked very hard to create the perfect atmosphere for everyone, from novice to experienced dancers. If you didn't attend this year, you owe it to yourself to find a way to get there next year. And take that nap BEFORE you go because you won't want to miss anything once you arrive.

The Fabulous Hubcaps

Saturday May 8th 1999 - Indoor Tennis Courts

Admission - \$35.00 per person plus taxes

(Includes complimentary cook-out 6:00pm-8:00pm)

Music Starts at 8:00pm

Back by popular demand, The Hubcaps are returning. After one of our most enjoyable events last year, we welcome one of the best live bands in the area. Come dance the night away to the great Rock 'n Roll of the 50's & 60's. Remember - Tennis Shoes are Required!

Reservations Required - Please call the Catering Office
301-320-3000 or 301-320-7453

The Grill will be open for Saturday Night Buffet only. Fireside Room will be closed



OTHER LOCAL REGULARLY SCHEDULED DANCING

- Third Sunday of every month: **April 18, 1999**--Sunday Social at Nick's, Pickett St., Alexandria, VA 2-5
Advanced Shag lessons 5-7, immediately following the Sunday Social
- Sundays:** MD DC VA Hand Dance will host a dance, 94th Aero Squadron, 4 to 8, website www.erols.com/danceclub
- 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, Nick's, Alexandria, VA 703-751-8900
- 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 9:00 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
- April 11, 1999** ----Band of OZ, 4 to 8 PM, Riverdale Elks Lodge, Kenilworth Ave, \$20 in advance, \$22 at the door, call 301-460-0800
- April 16-25, 1999- SOS Spring Safari, North Myrtle Beach, SC**
- May 14-15, 1999-** Beach Music Festival in Panama City, FL call 850-763-0786 or email pappasj@interoz.com
- May 15, 1999-----** Bopper's Shag Club, 2nd annual memorial golf tournament, Pineville, NC call Jannette 704-895-0264
- May 21-23, 1999--**Beach Music Weekend, Virginia Beach, VA call 757-491-SUNN
- May 22, 1999-----**Marion County Shag club, golf, workshop and dance, e-mail white@floc.net or call 843-423-5672
- May 27-30, 1999** Grand Nationals in Atlanta, GA, presented by Jackie McGee and Charlie Womble, call 770-512-7848

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

