



Shag Rag

Dedicated to the Preservation of the Carolina Shag and Beach Music

December, 1999

Keep on Shagging'

Vol. VI, No 12

December President's Letter *by Vesta Jones*



After two years as president, I continue to be overwhelmed and energized by this club. What an amazing group of people! I travel up and down the east coast shaggin', meetin' and greetin' with wonderful folks... but when I come home I realize what a very special group we have. At this point, I am really ready to be joining the group as a member and not as a leader. There is much energy and many good ideas in this club... new leaders coming along, new directions to take. I am ready to ride the wave and enjoy "hangin' out."

I do want to take some time to thank the boards that have served with me for two years and all the members during this time. I believe we accomplished a lot along with lots of effort from the membership of the club (and had a LOT of fun meanwhile)... the membership has grown to **almost 400**; we re-wrote the bylaws to more accurately reflect the current activities and structure of the club; we won **1st** place in **TWO SOS** parades (which put not only trophies in our club but money (real \$\$\$) in our bank account; our very own treasurer won **1st** place in the Ms Fun Monday (something I wish all of you could have shared... we will try to have the parade video at Nicks when a VCR is available... **definitely worth seeing!**) We have won money (more real \$\$\$) on several occasions for our successful efforts working in the SOS Company Store at various SOS'; we have adopted **HOSPICE OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA** as our club charity... and through 50/50 sales, "Go on Record for Charity" record sales, and a whopping success of a Shag-a-thon will have (by the end of 1999) donated about **\$12,000** in these two years. We moved the Classic to a new location, moved the dance club to a new location, expanded our numbers of competitive shaggers (CSA) to four couples, expanded the number of club deejays that are ABSCDJ members to 5, had a wide variety of the very best instructors in the shag world for 4 workshops per year, expanded our dance instruction program to one that is respected and envied throughout the shag world, got our club plaque up at Fat Harolds, got our club pavers on Main Street in a most prestigious location, got our official, legal "**non-profit status**" from the IRS... and had a record number of members both running for office and voting in the most recent election... what an amazing club.

And so it is with a very wide smile and a warm heart and feet anxious to dance that I say... it has been a wonderful, memorable experience serving as your president for two years... **THANK YOU**... and I happily hand the baton to **Joan McKinney**... now... for heaven's sake **LET'S SHAG!!!**

DECEMBER 11

CHRISTMAS PARTY



**January 8,
2000**

Jackie and Charlie are coming to town.
See flyer in this Shag Rag

DECEMBER 11 CHRISTMAS PARTY

WHERE: SPRINGFIELD VFW

TIME: 7 TO MIDNIGHT

COST: FREE FOR MEMBERS
\$5.00 FOR NON MEMBERS

DJ: JOHN SMITH

CALL: BETTY ABSHIRE
703-680-5115



Congratulations to Janis Grimes and Steve Booth on their recent marriage, October 2.

Congratulations to Diane Stickler the proud grandmother of twins---Jeffrey Isacc and Naomi Rose born October 29. Mother and babies doing fine, grandmother needs sleep.

So Sorry--Last month's Shag Rag listed a new member as Roger Woodson and it should have been Rodger. Welcome again to our club.

PRIVATE LESSONS WITH CHARLIE WOMBLE & JACKIE MCGEE

by David Rodgers

If you're interested in becoming a better shagger, then sign up for private lessons with Charlie & Jackie while they are here to teach workshops for our Club.

Charlie & Jackie will be offering private lessons at David & Jerry Rodgers' house in Fairfax Station on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday (Jan. 6, 7, & 9). Cost of the lessons will be \$60.00/hour with either Charlie **OR** Jackie and \$85.00/hour for **BOTH** Charlie & Jackie together. Charlie & Jackie won the National Shag Championships nine times and they were the U.S. Open Champions in 1996. They are fantastic instructors and all of us can learn a lot from them.

SIGN UP NOW for private lessons during that weekend. Don't miss this opportunity to take private lessons from Charlie & Jackie. E-mail David Rodgers at rodgersd3@aol.com or call him at (703) 239-8978 to put your name on the list. Times for lessons will be worked out later when we have the schedule for private lessons worked out.



Coming Soon.....

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

Charlie Womble & Jackie McGee

will be here!

3 Shag Workshops on

Saturday, January 8th at Ft. Myer Community Center

Beginner	11 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!

with Beach Music DeeJay **BUTCH METCALF!!**

Ft. Myer Community Center

8-12 p.m.

Cover Charge:
\$10 - Members
\$12 Non-Members

BYOB* -- Light Snacks and Mixers Provided

**Ft. Myer is a military base - no alcohol sales are permitted*

Everyone is Welcome to Attend!!

DIRECTIONS: From the Beltway in Virginia, take Rt. 50 East toward Arlington to the Washington Blvd/Pentagon exit; go South to FIRST EXIT on RIGHT (Court House Rd/Fort Myer Exit). Turn LEFT on Court House Rd., then LEFT on 2nd street to Fort Myer. Go through the Gate, turn LEFT at FIRST STOP SIGN on McNair, to Community Center on the LEFT. Parking lot on the right.

To schedule PRIVATE LESSONS w/Charlie & Jackie, call David - 703-239-8978

Brought to You by The Northern Virginia Shag Club

The Spirit of Shag Lives On..... *by Janis Grimes*

Just back from the National Living Legends of Dance Awards, an annual event honoring those who have made significant contributions to the preservation and evolution of dance, and I am filled with the warmth, love and easy sense of fun that surrounds these special people. Did you know that two members of our own club are National Living Legends? That's right -- Craig Hutchinson and Earl Robinson are both recipients of the Star Award.

Conceived and produced by Fran Bingley and Berta Lull of Virginia Beach, this event has grown into a classy gala that attracts many of the best and most dedicated dance elite in the country. Invitations are limited by the moderate size of the Officers' Club at Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base, but good will and high spirits soar. Amazingly, there is no sign of rivalries or egos running amok that might be expected in such a talented group, many of whom are competitors. The only sad part of the weekend, brought to immediate attention by the mention of those who are missing this year, is the quiet realization that after all the fun, laughter and joy, it could be the last time we will see this person, or that one...

Master of Ceremonies Steve Booth did a wonderful job as always, making the evening come to life with his stylish commentary and anecdotes about the honorees. Among the many shag luminaries present this year were Ellen & Carl Taylor, Earl Robinson & the lovely Beverly Jones, Jerry Canada, Norfleet Jones and Sheila Bodie, recently married Bobby Kellam and Ann Givens, Michael Payne of The Carefree Times, Judy Davis, Charlie Snow, Johnny & Carolyn Johnson of Roanoke, and Wes May. Nine-year old Brenner Goree, an upcoming junior shagger, reported back to his grandmother Marjory after a dance with Ellen Taylor, "She catches on real quick to my steps."

Norfleet Jones, legendary shagger and proprietor of Ducks in North Myrtle Beach, and Eddie Monsour are sponsoring the newest team of shag competitors, Ducks Dirty Dozen, comprised of juniors and other young shaggers. The team consists of twelve awesome dancers -- Norman Aldredge & Nikki Kontoulis; David Campbell & Jill Barton; Grant Garmon & Leah Sanderson; Brent & Kellese Key; Brad Kinard & Jennifer Beaver; and Grayson Smith & Leslie Melton. We watched in awe as they performed their perfectly synchronized routine, on their way to the U.S. Open in Anaheim, California. In one corner of the dance floor sat Grayson Smith, resting his recently injured ankle. These kids are so polished and professional that they performed their routine with Grayson sitting out -- meaning that one girl was always dancing her part alone. It was still stunningly precise. Grayson was spotted later that night dancing with two girls (at the same time) on the carpet -- just couldn't help himself. We hope he will recover in time to dance at the U.S. Open. Norfleet explained that Grayson, a 3rd year student at Clemson University..., a gifted athlete and dancer of extraordinary coordination and grace..., sprained his ankle (Oh No!!!) while walking down the sidewalk after leaving his fraternity house... End of explanation. That's his story, and he's sticking to it.

Last year the National Shag Dance Team won first place at the U.S. Open, stunning the entire dance community with their precision, grace, and ability. Several shag couples took top honors in other categories, as well, and Carolina Shag was finally recognized on a national level for the beautiful art form that it is. We know what to expect from these young shaggers -- they are some of the most talented dancers in the entire country (okay, the world!), and we wish them every success this year.

The friendship and support among the young shaggers was prevalent that weekend, with not a hint of the negatives -- ego, attitude or jealousy -- that sometimes creep in when there is so much talent in one room. It was a perfect celebration with gracious people who support each other in a spirit of friendship that is wonderful to witness. They are fabulous, and they are the future. But as Norfleet said, were it not for the Living Legends who started dancing and kept it alive, they wouldn't be here.

That Shag Spirit is the glue that holds it all together for these talented, and very fortunate, people. The spirit of friendship, coolness and genuine support for each other gives them a safe haven where they can play, work on their dancing, enjoy each other, and excel to fantastic levels. They are so blessed.

The Winners Are

Our election is over and the members have chosen next year's officers and directors:

President	Joan McKinney
Vice President	Heather Jennings
Treasurer	Dennis Gehley
Secretary	Craig Jennings
Director at Large	Betty Abshire
Director at Large	Pamela Alfano
Director at Large	Vesta Jones
Director at Large	H. K. Lee
Director at Large	David Rodgers

Thanks to the nominating committee for all their hard work and thanks to all that voted. The above *nine people* cannot do all the work. They need your help. **Please volunteer.** Each board member will chair a committee and they will be soliciting committee members in January. Don't wait to be asked, you know your strengths and interests, **volunteer.**

A **BIG Thank you** to the 1999 officers and directors for the wonderful job that you have done.

2nd Annual NVSC Shag-A-Thon! *by Vesta Jones*

On **February 12th**, at Landmark Shopping Center, the Northern Virginia Shag Club will sponsor the second 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 Landmark Shopping Center, 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.** Starting the second week in January, sign up sheets will be available each Wednesday. After signing up, you will receive a **pledge sheet**. Take the pledge sheet to as many friends, family and co-workers 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. (*This 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!

On the day of the event, bring your pledge sheet and your dancing shoes and dance, dance, dance. This event raised over **\$8000.00** for the **Hospice of Northern Virginia** last year and we hope to raise even more this year. If you can't dance that day, come by and cheer your fellow dancers on.

If you are interested in participating in this event, contact **Vesta Jones**.

Shagger Profile---

Name: Charles R. McAndrew
Nickname: Chuck
Occupation: Retired US Government, Financial Manager
Birthday: November 15
Hometown: Arlington, Virginia
Marital Status: Married
Self Portrait: Conservative, Helpful to others
Motto: Proud to be an American
Dream: Luxury cruise around the world
Favorite Dance Tune: Unchained Melody
Bad Habit: Speaking out on issues
Hobby: Coin collecting and traveling
Luxury defined: 1st class travel
Drink or wine: Vodka Collins
TV Program: Jag, Matlock, Murder She Wrote
Books at bedside: Travel Books
Last Words: I did it my Way!

NEW MEMBERS IN November

Bonnie Arms, Jan Coleman, Ron Fisher, Kim Hayden, Karen Schreib, Adell Smith

Intermediate Dance Steps for December

Dec 8 Side-to-side Basic; Sailor Shuffle;
Pivot into Belly Roll; Armover Pivot
Dec 15 Double-Kick Basic; Front Prep w/walk up
Dec 22 Stutter Basic; Boogie Walk; Side Pass
with Boogie Walk
Dec 29 Back Prep; Sugarfoot



DJ's for the coming weeks:

Dec 1 Dennis & Nancy Gehley
Dec 8 Craig Jennings
Dec 15 Larry Jones
Dec 22 Charlie Price
Dec 29 Craig Jennings
Jan 5 Dennis & Nancy Gehley

Do you have a favorite song? Ask your DJ to play it. It's awfully difficult to hear over the music so you might want to write it down .

Happy Happy Birthday December babies

1 Angela Eppler
1 Jon Ross
2 Jeffery Niemuth
4 Ken Moreau
5 Larry Bess
5 Lynn Herzog
6 Barry Kumar
7 Ray Jones
7 Barbara Schipper
8 Denise Bass
8 Sara Dottellis
9 Jane James
9 Melody Wayland
10 Kathy Lewis
10 Harold Stephens
11 Jeffrey Gaines
12 Alex Booth
12 Joseph Laws
12 Cathy Metcalf
12 Jack Williams
13 Helen Bacumpas
13 Frank DelPiano
14 Larry Jones
14 Ginger Rouse
16 Frederick Smolen
17 Barb Clark
17 Barry Zeeberg
19 Joyce Goins
19 Dave Rapson
20 Susan Bane
21 Michael Browne
21 Kent Edie
23 Gaye Proctor
23 Dave Townsend
24 Reid Ellis
26 Liana Levesque
30 Carol Jennings



E-MAIL How do you get on our
Shagger Email list? Email me at

vms@olg.com

