



# Shag Rag

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

February, 2000

Keep on Shagging'

Vol. VII, No 2

## February President's Message by Joan McKinney

**VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH.** And maybe the Millennium.... **JERRY RODGERS**, for hosting Charlie & Jackie for four days in her home and accommodating their private-lesson students. C & J are delightful, easy guests. They're not the chore. It's the rest of us, clomping in and out of the house for lessons...which start in mid-morning and run 'till 11 PM. (Sorry, no special kudos for **DAVID RODGERS**. So what if it's his house, too, and he does all the lesson scheduling? He's on the Board. Supposed to work like a dog.)

**THANKS**, too.... to **JANIS GRIMES** for planning the Saturday Charlie & Jackie workshop and to **STEVE BOOTH** for running it in Janis' absence (a very nasty case of the flu)..... to **STEVE, DENNIS & NANCY GEHLEY** and **VALERIE SWIGER** for designing a check-in system that moved our guests smoothly and satisfied our records-keeping requirements for the IRS.... and to **RAY JONES**, an early arrival who volunteered for duty at the check-in desk...

**THANKS**, also to **HEATHER & CRAIG JENNINGS, NANCY & DENNIS GEHLEY, LARRY & SHIRLEY JONES** for helping make welcome our guest **DJ BUTCH METCALF**... Especially to Craig who did the Saturday night show-of-support, despite the flu nasties and a very long road trip.

**THANKS** to the **SATURDAY NIGHT VOLUNTEERS**... the slice 'n dice food prepares, **ANDREA CREWS, GINI FORTUNATO, VESTA JONES, SHARON SALPINI** and **KATHRYN QUATTRONE**... and the early-arriving setup crew of **MICHAEL & RUTH BROWNE, DAVE & RUTH RAPSON, GARY & SHARON SALPINI, MICHAEL & GINI FORTUNATO, JAKE WILLINGHAM**, and **JACK WILLIAMS** (a Pennsylvania member, with two new-member guests).....And many of the above, plus **MIKE FRANCELLA, BOB LUTZ, DALLAS CAMPBELL, VESTA, JOHN T PRICE, DAN DUVALL** and **VALERIE**, who stayed late to clean up... And especially to **BETTY ABSHIRE** for her superb oversight of all this activity.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW:** ...Saturday, **March 25th**. Another shag workshop with pro instructors that day, and then a joint party with the hand dancers that night. Details soon.

We southerners don't always come to the point all that quickly. So, bear with me, please, for a little story about how shagging came to be for me.

It's all tied up with my brother Frank. He was my first shag partner. He was 8, I was 9. Teenage neighbors taught us to shag. It was Greenville, S.C. in the mid-50s, a time when adults still gathered on the front porches after supper and kept watch over children playing hopscotch and dodge ball in the streets. There in the street, on sweet summer nights under the street lamps and in between the dodge ball games, Frank and I learned to shag. He was that legendary kid present for the birth of rock 'n roll: a skinny little elementary school rebel who waited 'til the house went to sleep and then tuned his radio to some magical faraway place that broadcast Wolf Man Jack or rhythm 'n blues from Chicago or the deep Deep South....Soon, I never had to remember who sang what song. Frank remembered for me. And for everybody else in our neighborhood.

January a year ago, many of us -- going all the way back to grade school -- were having a reunion at Frank's house, a wonderful wreck of a shack on James Island, S.C., across the marsh from Folly Beach. By this time -- for perverse reasons no one remembers -- Frank had become "J. Fred" by nickname. Often spelled "J. Phred," for other perverse reasons that had something to do with Frank's profession as a scientist. (Ichthyologist. Fish scientist). He was J. Phred at Pholly Beach.... and his musical tastes had evolved, and in that shack by the marsh he had collected all the very best of all kinds of music, including, of course, our beloved R 'n B.

We all told tales of Frank introducing us to rock 'n roll. And of course, someone told that TIRED old story of how Frank -- the coolest 8-year old anyone ever knew -- just loved that song by Young Jesse, a song about how some woman is doing Jesse wrong and so Jesse sings "I smell a rat, baby." Lyrics that Joan heard completely wrong, and so she went around the neighborhood singing "I'm a little raspberry."

Then someone told about the James Brown show. We were in high school, and it was the good ol' days -- except not all of it was good, ya know. The city auditorium was booking rock 'n roll shows, but only after the City un-Wise Men had decreed that the white kids would sit in the balcony and the black kids would sit at floor level -- where they had the very good sense not to sit long. They'd invented this music, after all, and they were gonna GET UP AND DANCE. .. It took Frank about a nano-second to figure out that this balcony business was a bad arrangement-- and then he launched himself from the balcony and landed on stage, where he danced with the go-go girls... Alas, the security guards hauled him away, but it remains a shining moment in Greenville's rock 'n roll lore.

For me, all those memories are encapsulated in one great moment from December of 1998 -- just a few weeks before we gathered our friends to party at the marsh -- when Frank went to his CD player, put on a little beach music, took my hand -- and then we shagged. He was as smooth as ever, and he laughed out loud in pure delight.

But that moment at the CD player, that exquisite moment of grace and laughter? Frank was shagging, attached by a plastic breathing line to an oxygen bottle. It was his last dance. He died the next month. At 50. Of lung cancer.

The January party on the marsh (and it WAS a party) was our memorial service for Frank. Friends put his ashes into a basket, cradled him in camellia blossoms and carried him to the marsh. At the moment they gave Frank to the ocean, a breeze stirred and carried some of his ashes my way, and a bit of grit stung my cheek. It felt like Frank's kiss goodbye, and some of the music in me died forever. ...

And yet, some of the music will be forever more sweet and more joyful because it is the sound of Frank, who's still singing to us ---just from some other place, that's all.... And that will make it a pure joy to shag, two weeks from now at Landmark Mall, when our club has its Shag-a-thon for Hospice of Northern Virginia..... In the last week of his life, Frank sought guidance from Hospice and signed up for their home-based care. He died before Hospice could arrive, but Hospice already had served him well. Frank could turn with confidence to Hospice, because, not many years before, he had watched as Hospice nursed our father, also a lung cancer victim. Frank knew with absolute certainty that Hospice would give strength to his family and friends and compassionate nursing to him, and so he was less afraid.

The many people in our club who've lost people to cancer or who have survived cancer (and there ARE many, many survivors), already know who we're dancing for at Landmark. If the ghastly disease of cancer has spared your family or friends, please participate anyway .... and, if you will, please shag one shag for ol' J. Phred.



**HOSPICE**  
OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

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Clinical Offices**  
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703.538.2165 Fax

**Loudoun Clinical Office**  
209 Gibson Street, NW  
Suite 202  
Leesburg, VA 20176  
703.777.7866  
703.771.8904 Fax

**Prince William  
Clinical Office**  
13168 Centerpointe Way  
Suite 202  
Woodbridge, VA 22193  
703.670.5080  
703.670.3910 Fax

**The Roy and Margaret Halquist  
Memorial Hospice Center**  
4715 North 15th Street  
Arlington, VA 22205  
703.525.7070  
703.525.4127 Fax

December 31, 1999

Ms. Vesta Jones  
Northern Virginia Shag Club  
P. O. Box 5522  
McLean, VA 22103

*I hope to  
see you on  
Feb. 12!*

Dear Vesta:

On behalf of Hospice of Northern Virginia, the board members, staff, volunteers and patients, thank you for designating Hospice as the beneficiary of this year's funds from the Shag Club. Your donation of \$4,000 is appreciated.

Your commitment along with the volunteer time from your members is important to Hospice's fund-raising efforts. It enables Hospice to keep its promise to be available to all who are terminally ill, regardless of their ability to pay. In 1999, Hospice has helped 2,910 patients and their families. This is an increase of 12% over 1998. The funds that you help raise make it possible for us to meet the increased demand for many Hospice services. We could not do this without your help!

Thank you once again for your participation in this year's event. I look forward to working with you again soon.

*Happy New Year,*

*Christina*

Christina Rovelli Potts  
Special Events Coordinator

**\*Please keep this letter with your tax records.** Hospice is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization (#51-0219009) under section 501 (c)(3). Per the requirement of the IRS, this is to acknowledge that you were provided no goods and services in consideration of this cash gift. Cumulative gifts of \$250 or more per year are listed in Hospice publications. Please call (703) 538-2061 if you prefer to give anonymously.





## Attention----Out of Town Members and Locals TOO!!!

At least once in your life you were or are a member of some organization that was or is raising money for something. Remember how you felt when you were placed in that situation. **You wanted to do it, BUT you just didn't want to ASK!!!** Don't make these people ASK. **Sponsor one of your club members** who have volunteered to dance in the **Shag-A-Thon**, write a check (made payable to the Hospice of Northern Virginia) and mail the check to our post office box **(NVSC P O Box 5522, Mclean, VA 22103)**

How will you know who is dancing?

### CHECK OUT THE LIST BELOW-- THESE ARE SOME OF THE DANCERS

All contributions are greatly appreciated.

*Thank you*

## SHAG-A-THON DANCERS

<i>Cathy Metcalf</i>	<i>Joan McKinney</i>	<i>Larry Boyer</i>	<i>Valerie Swiger</i>
<i>Betty Abshire</i>	<i>Larry Jones</i>	<i>Shirley Jones</i>	<i>Steve Rose</i>
<i>Beth Enders</i>	<i>Audrey Borja</i>	<i>Don Borja</i>	<i>Larry Camp</i>
<i>Mary Camp</i>	<i>Dave Rapson</i>	<i>Gini Fortunato</i>	<i>Mike Fortunato</i>
<i>Mike Francella</i>	<i>Dan Drogue</i>	<i>Linda Silbaugh</i>	<i>Amy Hardison</i>
<i>Steve Booth</i>	<i>Janis Grimes</i>	<i>Craig Jennings</i>	<i>Heather Jennings</i>
<i>Gary Salpini</i>	<i>Pamela Alfano</i>	<i>Jeff Kincheloe</i>	<i>Vaughn Royal</i>
<i>Speedy Dunn</i>	<i>Gerry Scott</i>	<i>David Rodgers</i>	<i>Dave Shipp</i>
<i>Sharon Shipp</i>	<i>Jane James</i>	<i>Joe Cornish</i>	<i>Stephanie Powers</i>
<i>H K Lee</i>	<i>Jim Peterson</i>	<i>Ruth Browne</i>	<i>Michael Browne</i>
<i>Gary Mann</i>	<i>Robbi Mann</i>	<i>Dennis Gehley</i>	<i>Nancy Gehley</i>
<i>Bonnie Arms</i>	<i>Liz Kestler</i>	<i>Jean Jennings</i>	<i>Jim Taylor</i>
<i>Laura Lightbourne</i>	<i>Charles Warren</i>	<i>Patti Cricks</i>	<i>Jerry Anders</i>
<i>Melissa McCauley</i>	<i>Kevin Byrnes</i>	<i>Ray Jones</i>	<i>Bob Wilson</i>
<i>Joan Byrnes</i>	<i>Marjorie King</i>	<i>Libby Ash</i>	<i>Fran Harris</i>
<i>Vesta Jones</i>	<i>Emily Curry</i>	<i>John Mullen</i>	<i>Dawn Pappas</i>
<i>Kitty Senge</i>	<i>Fred Suthard</i>	<i>Lou Toler</i>	<i>Rick Hendrix</i>
<i>Cris Gaines</i>	<i>Jeff Gaines</i>	<i>Linda McAndrew</i>	<i>Bob Lutz</i>

*These are some, probably not all, of the wonderful members who have volunteered to dance for Hospice on February 12. If you wish to support them, in their effort to raise funds for Hospice, please make your checks payable to Hospice of Northern Virginia, tell us which dancer you are supporting and mail the check to the address above.*

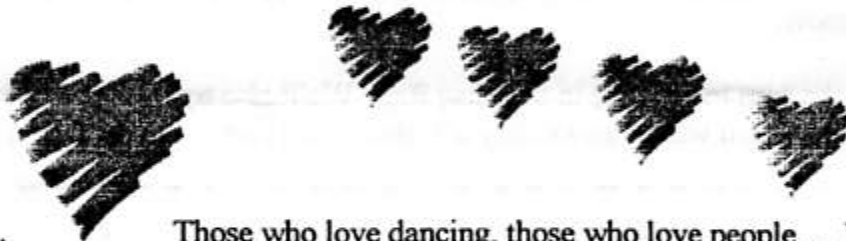
## "P.S. from the President..."

Not enough newsletter space for all the funny stories heard during Charlie & Jackie's visit in January.... most ...aving to do with Jackie's massive indifference to anything domestic. **AUDREY BORJA** says Jackie told this on herself: Jackie was making some kind of salad thing, and the recipe called for cold rice, so Jackie took the box of rice out of the cupboard and put it in the refrigerator.

... And, yes, **EARL ROBINSON**, Jackie did tell the workshop about the step you invented New Year's at Ducks, Too in O.D.... Something about the beach brings out the creativity in our club... **KATHRYN QUATTRONE** once invented a step at The Boulevard Grill... Ask **DENNIS GEHLEY** why he has named these steps **The Snatch** and **The Bust Out**.

.. Charlie & Jackie stay so often with the Rogers that they now have their own nameplate on the guest bedroom door. It's the work of our artist extraordinaire, **DON BORJA**, who put stars on the nameplate.... just like a backstage dressing room... Don did our very classy **CAPITAL SHAG CLASSIC** logo— the shaggers in front of the U.S. Capitol dome . This year, we're putting it on a black t-shirt. Should be spectacular. On sale in July.

... **BETTY ABSHIRE** concocted the notion of selling raffle tickets for a private lesson with C & J.... Big Winners: **DAVE & SHARON SHIPP** who won the lesson, and the club, which made a profit that will be plowed into our **CLASSIC** weekend party in July... A bigger profit than we expected, because those *lovely people*, Charlie & Jackie, refused to be paid for the lesson and donated that hour back to the club.



### **FEBRUARY is for LOVERS...**

Those who love dancing, those who love people.... In addition to our Shag-A-Thon for Hospice of Northern Virginia (Feb. 12th at Landmark Mall), there's a hand-dancers' party **February 26th** at the Clinton, Md. American Legion, with proceeds going to **cancer-fighting programs**.. DJs are **Eddy & Denny**, also members of NVSC... This is Denny's 14th annual war-against-cancer dance.

**BACK ROOM AT NICKs**... Was a little apprehensive when the Sunday Social moved off the main dance floor at NICKs to the back room.... Turned out to be a cozy and conversational place. A good fit for Sunday afternoons (**3rd SUNDAY of every month**) when we're in a casual, low key mood... At the **January 15th** social, the "advanced" class (4 PM) was less a class and more a group sharing of the lead-able Whip Pivot-variation step that Charlie & Jackie taught.... Looked a little ragged at first (remember how you never remember a workshop step?), but we helped each other fine-tune, and we got better in increments, and by the end of Group Therapy some folks really were doing that little "whip" movement. Thanks to **LARRY BOYER, CATHY METCALF** and **VAUGHN ROYAL** for leading us in the collaborative effort... FYI: The advanced "class" happens during Sunday Social, but it takes only a section of the floor and our DJ keeps playing, so there's still music and dance space for those who don't want the class.

## Get your SOS Memberships and SAVE

Buy your year 2000 SOS memberships through the shag club and save \$5.00 (up until March 1, 2000.) Dennis Gehley has the applications. Fill them out, give cash or a check (\$30.00) made out to NVSC to Dennis, and soon you will receive your 2000 SOS membership card in the mail...wooHOO! Let's SHAG!!!

## New Years Weekend *by Sharon Salpini*

The Outer Banks Shag Club held a New Year's Eve Celebration in Nags Head, NC, which was attended by a large group of NVSC members. We had a great time the whole weekend. The OBSC certainly made us feel at home -- great music, good food, and wonderful people. They even fed us black-eyed peas on New Years Day -- you can't get much more southern or traditional than that!

On Saturday night, which the OBSC designated as "red, white, and blue" night, we participated as a group by wearing T-shirts that we had made to fit their theme. Since we had such a good time and our participation as a group was so well received by the OBSC, we would like to continue our group travel and participate in some of the upcoming shag club sponsored parties. These parties provide an opportunity for us to make our club more well known in a very positive way and also lets new (and not so new) NVSC members get to know each other. Also, if you've never been to a weekend party, going with a group always helps -- you'll always have someone there who you know.

We'll publicize the trips in advance in the Shag Rag. We'll also try to do T-shirts for each trip -- probably costing \$15 each, but you won't have to buy a T-shirt -- just come with us and have a good time!

## Important Dates

**February 12, 2000**

**Shag-A-Thon - raising money for Hospice**

**February 20, 2000**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** in three weeks...

during the next Sunday Social on February 20th at Nicks... Some time ago, KATHRYN QUATTRONE suggested that we hold these quarterly meetings during the less frenetic Sunday Socials... so members could hear better and might feel more inclined to chat with the Board, and each other, about the club's business... Previously, the membership meetings were held on our regular Wednesday night dance nights, which are (and this is a good thing) louder and more energetic and devoted to dancing..... and who wants to talk business then???

**E-MAIL How do you get on our "Hello Shagger" Email list? Email Valerie Swiger at [vms@olg.com](mailto:vms@olg.com)**

