



# Shag Rag

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

June 2002

Keep on Shagging'

Vol. IX, No 6

## **President's Message** *by Pamela Alfano*

May was another exciting month for shaggers. To kick off the summer season, many of our members headed south to the annual Virginia Beach - Beach Music Weekend. For this event, there are bandstands set up right on the beach and beach bands perform for three days. The weekend started out wonderfully with sun and temperatures in the low 80s. Shaggers enjoyed a day of beach music and dancing in the sand. On Saturday, the weather took a turn for the worse with rain, strong winds and low temperatures. According to some of our members who stayed on the upper floors of the hotel, there were also "snow" flurries sighted. Those of us on the lower floors, who did not have any snow sightings, were a bit skeptical. On Friday and Saturday evenings, the Sixth Annual Virginia Beach Shag Championships took place at the Pavilion on the beach. Among the great talent were numerous NVSC members who danced beautifully. Congratulations to all of you who danced in the various divisions. [See the list of NVSC dancers who placed in the competition inside the Shag Rag.]

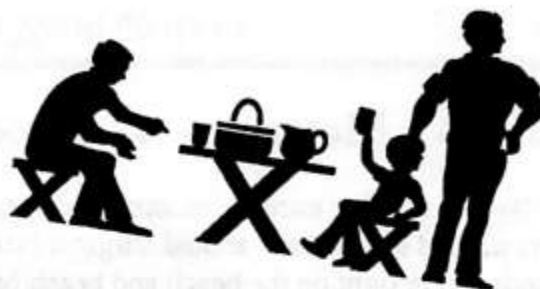
More exciting events are coming up in June. We will start the month "Margaritaville", a joint dance party with the Washington Ski Club on June 1 at the Springfield VFW. The Margaritas will be flowing all night long. We did the same thing last year and it was such a hit that we decided to do it again. For further details, please see the flyer inside.

NVSC will again participate in the Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival to be held the weekend of June 7-9. The Festival will include demonstrations of various styles of dance, and we have been invited to demonstrate the shag on Sunday, June 9, from 11:00 - 11:30 AM. Last year approximately 25 of our members did a shag demonstration, and it was wonderful. If you are interested in dancing this year, whether you are a beginner dancer or more experienced, please contact our Dance Program Chair, Heather Jennings.

On Saturday, June 22, Gary, Robbi and Kellie Mann have graciously agreed to host our Second Annual NVSC Picnic at their home in Fairfax. (Rain Date: Sunday, June 23). They have a fabulous yard with a pool and hot tub. There will be an outdoor dance floor and a DJ. Everyone is welcome to bring one of their culinary masterpieces to share. So join us for a great day of dancing, drinking, eating and swimming with your great NVSC friends.

The NVSC Capital Classic is also fast approaching and will be here before you know it. This is, of course, our biggest event of the year. If you have not already purchased your ticket, keep in mind that the prices will go up from \$60 to \$70 as of June 26 and you may not be able to get a room in the hotel after that date. You would certainly kick yourself if you missed out on the beginner, intermediate and advanced workshops with exciting pros Jennifer Beaver and Joey Sogluizzo, the free pours, the music, the dancing and the FUN. What are you waiting for! Get your tickets now and KEEP ON SHAGGIN!

**Northern Virginia  
Shag Club  
Annual Picnic  
June 22nd  
1:00—5:00  
Rain Date June 23rd**



**Don't miss this year's annual picnic that will be hosted by our gracious fellow club members, Gary and Robbi Mann, at their home in Fairfax.**

**Enjoy an afternoon of good food, shagging, and camaraderie with your NVSC friends at the Mann's.**

**NVSC will Provide**

- Hot Dogs, Burgers, and Condiments
- Mixers
- Dance Floor

**What to Bring**

- Your Swimsuit
- BYOB
- A Chair
- Bring A Side Dish

**Please RSVP Betty Abshire at phone # 703-680-3998, email babshire@aol.com  
(We want to make sure you have plenty to eat!)**

**Directions: From the Washington Beltway take Arlington Blvd/US-50W, go approximately 1 mile and make a left onto Prosperity Avenue, proceed approximately 1.1 miles to the top of a steep hill, make a right onto Southwick St. and proceed to 9109 Southwick...Please note, at the top of the steep hill, Southwick is on the right and Morningside is on the left.**

**Time: 1:00 PM Till 5:00 PM...Lunch at 2:00 PM**

**Robbi and Gary Mann: 703-280-2055**

**Date: Saturday June 22nd, Rain Date June 23rd**

**FREE TO NVSC Club Members!**

## HOW ABOUT A DANCE PARTY WEEKEND IN OCEAN CITY, MD? by Dennis Gehley

Myrtle Beach to the south of us, the Delaware Valley Shag Club and the Pittsburgh Steel City Boogie Club to the north of us, are all great places to party. But did you know that there is now a "new kid" on the block? Actually, this "kid" has been around a long time. (And definitely around the block a few times. But that's OK, because experience counts a lot.) On March 13 -15, 2002, our friends over at the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Hand Dance Preservation Society (aka D.C. Hand Dance Club) hosted their very first MEET ME AT THE BEACH party weekend in Ocean City, Maryland. Shaggers at this great weekend included members of the Northern Virginia, Richmond, and Virginia Beach clubs who, for whatever reasons, were not able to be in Pittsburgh with Joanne Johnson, Tootie Brown, Charlie and Jackie and the Steel City Boogie Club. Many of our dance friends who regularly show up at the 94<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron were there in Ocean City to party hearty - and party we did!

DJs Jerry Canada, Doo-Wop Jack, Rock It Randy, Tommy "D", and Kathy K & Company kept hand dancers, shaggers, and swing dancers on the floor for 10 hours Friday, 11 hours Saturday, and 2 hours Sunday. It seemed too good to be true, but it WAS true. There were hand dance and line dance workshops, Hospitality Room free pours, a Jack and Jill contest, 50/50 drawings, fantastic food, and a very special patriotic show Saturday night that was choreographed by dance instructor and dancer extraordinaire Louise Pyles.

Every great party weekend usually has something extra special about it to remember, and the D.C. Hand Dance Club MEET ME AT THE BEACH 2002 certainly had something to rave about. Not only did club members build a new dance floor that was perfect to dance on, but also the floor had a special touch that I have never seen before in my 30 years of ballroom, country, hand, shag, and swing dancing. Club members Jerry Deere and his wife Pat took photographs submitted by those who wanted to see themselves BIG TIME. Members paid for Jerry and Pat to enlarge the photographs to a very visible and colorful 2-foot by 2-foot size; laminate the enlarged photographs; and attach them to floor panels so that everyone could dance with (on) them all weekend. It was a marvelous idea! Nancy and I had a lot of fun looking around for our favorite dancers, couples and singles, who literally were "on the floor" 24/7. It was exactly what the weekend program described it as: Floor Art! Wherever the floor goes in the future, so go the photographs and the memories that go with them.

Jerry and Pat were kind enough to mail one of the enlarged photos to me so that I can spread the idea to those at the Northern Virginia Shag Club who might be interested in doing the same with our dance floor for the Classic. If the \$60 price tag to enlarge and laminate a photo of yourself for all eternity (or maybe 5 years, according to Jerry) seems too much, maybe you could think about a group photo of friends or another couple to split the cost. Nancy and I have started looking through our shag archives to find that "perfect photo" of the two of us to put on the Classic floor. She tells me it may be a long search. We shall see.

The whole weekend was met with so much success and favorable comment that the D.C. Hand Dance Club has contracted for the same hotel next year at the same time of the year. The Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel had the most incredible food, and meal tickets for the Clarion were part of your low low ticket price of \$60 for the weekend. Rooms at the Clarion were only \$85 per night for a double. Next year dancing will be in an even larger ballroom because some club members had to be turned away this year when all the tickets were sold, many to shaggers or nonmembers. So mark your calendars for March 2003 and hope that the weekend doesn't conflict with Boogie in the 'Burgh. Even if it does, and you can't make it to Pittsburgh, you should definitely consider a drive to Ocean City, where you can hang out with those professional party people of hand dancers and shaggers from up and down the east coast. MEET ME AT THE BEACH 2003!

Invites You to Join Us For Our Seventh Annual

# CAPITAL SHAG CLASSIC

*Continuous Dancing  
and Music by  
Great Association DeeJays*

**JOANNE JOHNSON - HAROLD BEAVER**

**CRAIG JENNINGS ● LARRY JONES**

**DENNIS & NANCY GEHLEY ● CHARLIE PRICE ● GERRY SCOTT**

**JULY 26, 27 & 28, 2002**

Party starts 4 p.m. on Friday and continues on till 12 noon on Sunday

*FREE SHAG WORKSHOPS on Saturday  
Jennifer Beaver & Joey Sogluizzo*

## *Third Annual Golf Tournament*

*Friday July 26th - Cart, Green Fees & Lunch, \$75.00  
Partial proceeds Go To Hospice of Northern Virginia*

**Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites**  
625 First Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

**\*\*Request Special No. Va. Shag Club Rate**  
**\*\*Rooms \$89\*\* (1-4 persons)**  
Reservations: 703-548-6300

*FREE SHUTTLE to and from Reagan National Airport / Metro*

*FREE ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT MENU \* FREE POURS*

*Smoke-Free Ballroom*

**\*\*Hotel Discount Rate Reservation Cut-Off June 26th!! No Exceptions!!**

Weekend Tickets \$60 thru June 26th; \$70 After That

*Buy Your Tickets Early!*

NO REFUNDS AFTER JUNE 30 TH

**RAFFLE: For only an extra \$2, Take a Chance on a FREE ROOM and 1 Weekend Pass!!**

For Classic information, call Linda Silbaugh 703-256-4917 or Pamela Alfano at 703-379-7992

For Golf information call Joe Cornish 703-750-6449 or Laura Lightbourne 703-266-6156

or you can check out our website at: [www.nvshag.org](http://www.nvshag.org)

## Chris and Hugh Tant Win First Place in their First Shag Contest!

April 28th, Mt. Pleasant, SC..... At the Blessing of the Fleet (that's the Shrimp Boat Fleet), attended by about 10,000 people.....there was a shag contest. In their first contest together, before a crowd of about 4,000 people, Chris and Hugh Tant won **First Place** out of 45 couples! They had to dance three times, and the crowd was screaming for more.....

**Congratulations to Hugh and Chris!!!! We miss you!!!!**

## BORROWING SHAG VIDEOS.....

is EASY at NVSC!!! Whether you have taken all of the shag classes offered at NVSC or are just looking for new steps or tips on technique... our club has a constantly growing library of shag instructional videos. These videos contain more steps and tips that you can shake a stick at and they're **FREE to club members!** All you have to do is put down a **FULLY refundable \$25 deposit.** See our "video lady" **Nancy Gehley** on Wednesday nights to borrow a video!!! If you don't know who Nancy is, just ask a fellow club member!!!

; a free hint, Nancy is our only "lady" club DJ!

## SHAG WORKSHOP IN LYNCHBURG, VA

NVSC members **Heather & Craig Jennings** will be doing a two hour shag workshop for the Lynchburg Shag Club on Saturday, **July 20, 2002.** The workshop will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 pm and will cover both beginner and intermediate steps. A dance will be held that night from 8:00-midnight and Craig will be the guest DJ. If you're interested in a road trip, this will be a fun way to learn some new shag steps and also dance and party with friends from the Lynchburg Shag Club!!! Stay tuned for more details about workshop/dance location, cost, etc.....

# ALCOHOL AND THE SHAG WORLD

By Murl Augustine

You may read this wondering what affects alcohol has on our shag world. Well, the bottom line is that if it wasn't for the sale of alcohol to shaggers we may not have a shag world. I would venture to say that 99.9% of the places where we shag sell alcohol. I will go a step further and say that if enough alcohol is not sold on shag night that the shag night will go a w a y . I just made some broad statements. It's a fact that we meet in lounges and nightclubs. They are in business to make money selling alcohol. What's

the point? Well, if you drink you are providing a place for your friends to shag. If you don't drink you aren't helping very much. So what to do? Two things, first don't grumble if you are asked to pay for your coke or water, second buy drinks for your friends that do drink. Oh yes and tip the bartenders. They have a lot to say about things in a club. Keep them happy and all will be well. Maybe. On the local level you need to go to the clubs that allow shagging and support that night. If you don't you let down all your shagging friends that

want to have a place to shag. No one can take your place. Remember that you have to be there. Have a drink or buy someone else one. Have you ever seen shag night at your local Dairy Queen or in a coffee house? No.

Don't know what the point of this article is, but the next time you see someone in the shag group that is overly happy on alcohol (not drunk) say thank you.

-Murl Augustine



## NORTHERN VIRGINIA SHAG CLUB 2002 STANDING COMMITTEE Chairperson

<b>Dance:</b>	Larry Boyer
Dance Sub-Committees	
Juniors:	Linda Romero
Dance Program:	Heather Jennings
<b>Music:</b>	Vaughn Royal
<b>Social &amp; Hospitality:</b>	Betty Abshire
<b>Charity &amp; Fund Raising:</b>	Libby Ash
<b>Communications:</b>	Larry Boyer
<b>Membership:</b>	Valerie Swiger
<b>Public Relations:</b>	Mike Browne
<b>Capital Shag Classic:</b>	Linda Silbaugh
<b>Audit:</b>	Cris Gaines
<b>Birthday Cakes :</b>	Cris Gaines
<b>Web Page:</b>	Jewell Pradier

