



Shag Rag

Dedicated to the Preservation of the Carolina Shag and Beach Music

January 2003

Keep on Shagging'

Vol. X, No 1

President's Message *by Pamela Alfano*

The holiday season is now over and we can give a sigh of relief. Because our weekly dance night fell on Christmas and New Year's Days, we missed two weeks of shagging. Now we can get back to dancing in the New Year! With the New Year, there are many new items of interest for our members. We are now settled into our NEW regularly scheduled dance location – NOSTALGIA'S. Everyone who has been there seems very pleased with it. If you have not been to Nostalgia's, do yourself a favor and join us. You will not be disappointed.

There are four NEW directors on the 2003 Board who are anxious to serve the Club: Cathy Metcalf, Jane James, Gary Salpini and Dave Rapson. As I have said many times in the past, "this is your Club." The Board is here to respond to the needs of the Club and its members. We work very hard to try and make the best decisions with the interests of the Club in mind, even though we know that we cannot please everyone all of the time. To represent you most effectively, we need your suggestions and input. If you have an observation or an idea, please let us know. We are here to listen and respond. There are many opportunities to communicate with us, and the majority of the Board members are at Nostalgia's on Wednesdays. Please take advantage of the opportunity and TALK TO US! There are also four quarterly general membership meetings, which are open forums for discussion. The monthly Board meetings are open to any member who wishes to attend. Because the meetings are held in Board members' homes, we ask that you notify us in advance if you wish to attend or have an item placed on the agenda.

In addition to the new members on the 2003 Board, we are looking forward to having some NEW volunteers. Whenever there is a request for volunteers, the same small group of dedicated members seems to respond again and again. How about you? Think about volunteering to assist with a party, a workshop or some other task. Make 2003 the year you get involved or re-involved with your Club. It is always fun to be a part of a group project, and volunteering is a good way to be a part of the fun. To those who are always there when NVSC needs you, THANK YOU!

Our first event of 2003 will be on Saturday, January 4. Nine and ten-time National Shag Champions Charlie Womble and Jackie McGee will make their annual visit to NVSC to conduct workshops. This time, we have made some changes which we hope will better accommodate the interests of the dancers Charlie and Jackie tend to attract. The NEW workshop format will be "Male Lead/Female Follow", "Spins & Turns" and "Styling & Technique." This should provide something for everyone. In addition, Charlie and Jackie will offer private lessons, which are again being arranged through the efforts of David Rodgers. There will be a dance on Saturday evening at Fort Myer where everyone will have an opportunity to socialize and get better acquainted with Charlie and Jackie. This is one of our biggest and most important events of the year. I hope to see you there.

In 2003, NVSC will celebrate its TENTH ANNIVERSARY! To commemorate this momentous occasion, we plan to have the NVSC TEN YEAR REUNION PARTY. It will probably take place in September before SOS. We plan to invite everyone who has ever been a member. When they see how much fun they are missing, it might encourage some former members to rejoin. It will not only be a wonderful opportunity to get reacquainted with people who were there in earlier years, but to get better acquainted with newer members of the Club. You will be hearing more about this as things begin to develop. Gary Salpini and David Rapson have agreed to Chair this party, and they will need a lot of assistance. Please consider volunteering.

HAPPY NEW YEAR and KEEP ON SHAGGIN'.

The Northern Virginia Shag Club
Presents A
Shag Workshop and Party
With Pro-Shaggers
Charlie Womble & Jackie McGee

**January
4, 2003**



Charlie and Jackie are 9 time National Shag Champions (Jackie 10 times), US Open Swing Champions, members of the Shaggers Hall of Fame, Shad Alberty Award recipients, 3 time Feather Award winners for: Best Male and Female Swing Dancers, Best Classic Swing couple, New Wave Award. They also produce the Grand National Dance Championship.

Security Note for this Event

Due to current events and increased security, all attendees must be prepared to present picture ID at the Fort Myer entry gate.

Pre-registration may be required—please check immediately prior to the event.

Workshop
Fort Myer

Community Activities & Visitors Center
228 McNair Road, Bldg. 405
Fort Myer, Virginia 22211-1199
Phone: 703-696-3470

11:00—12:00 Male Lead/Female Follow

1:00- 2:00 Spins & Turns

2:15- 3:15 Styling & Technique

Cost: \$10 per workshop for NVSC Members

\$15 per workshop for non-members

Private lessons with Charlie and Jackie are available. Please contact Dave Rogers at 703-239-8978 to make arrangements.

**DANCE SATURDAY
NIGHT**

DJ Butch Metcalf

8:00 p.m.— Midnight

At

Fort Myer

Community Activities & Visitors Center
228 McNair Road, Bldg. 405
Fort Myer, Virginia 22211-1199
Phone: 703-696-3470

Cost: \$10 for NVSC Members
\$12 for Non-members

Directions to Ft. Myer: From Northern Virginia: Take I-395 to exit 8A Washington Blvd, Route 27 North. Take Washington Blvd North to Fort Myer exit on right. Go thru gate and turn left at 1st stop sign onto McNair. The Community Center is several buildings down on your LEFT. Parking lot on the right.

**Juniors Receive Free
Admission to Both Events!**

A Brief Explanation from Your Treasurer About the \$6 Cover Charge at Nostalgia's

At the December 2002 monthly meeting of the NVSC Board, new Board members for 2003 and the 2002 Board discussed the issue of how much the cover charge should be at the Holiday Inn Fair Oaks club Nostalgia's, the new "home" of the Northern Virginia Shag Club. Based on input from new Board members Cathy, Dave, Gary and Jane and discussion of NVSC cover charges at our previous locations in Springfield, Alexandria, and Arlington during the last 9 years, the Board decided that \$6 was an appropriate cover.

The \$6 charge will accomplish four main objectives that the Board considers reasonable, appropriate and fair for all parties concerned:

- [1] pay Holiday Inn's charge to NVSC of only \$100 each week to use Nostalgia's as a private party on Wednesdays, a rate which the Board considers to be extremely reasonable and generous to NVSC;
- [2] pay the \$45 salary of a Holiday Inn employee (Todd) to work as our doorman throughout the evening;
- [3] compensate NVSC DJs in their capacity as independent contractors at a rate of \$2 for the evening for each person who pays the cover charge; and
- [4] set aside any funds over and above those needed for objectives 1, 2 and 3 and use such overage for the benefit of those NVSC members and guests who patronize Nostalgia's.

Experience after only three weeks at Nostalgia's in December indicates that the Board's decision to charge \$6 appears to be acceptable to the general membership. Attendance has ranged from a low of 36 persons on the very bad weather night of December 11 to a high of 83 persons on "opening night" December 4. After only three Wednesdays, membership support through attendance at Nostalgia's has resulted in over \$300 from over charges already being set aside by the Board for eventual return to those NVSC members who support Nostalgia's.

The Board encourages our fellow NVSC members to let us know what you think about various ways we can reward those members who support Nostalgia's and NVSC by attending our weekly lessons and dance. What about a free beer night at Nostalgia's? How about a "No cover charge" night? Would you like to see a monthly or quarterly Happy Hour night? Maybe even an occasional Open Bar night? My friends, let your imagination go wild! The more people who show up at Nostalgia's and pay the cover, the larger the amount we can set aside to pay you back for our support. Remember: it's your club. Use it or lose it.

P. S. The Board also voted that there would be a \$200.00 ceiling on the amount of money that any DJ will be compensated for at Nostalgia's on any Wednesday. This means that once 100 people have paid the \$6 cover on any given evening, 100 percent of the \$6 cover charge becomes "overage" eventually to be returned to Nostalgia's attendees. Is that a sweet deal or what? So get out there and support yourself by supporting Nostalgia's your home away from home on Wednesday nights!

Dennis M. Gehley, Treasurer

New Email for Hello Shaggers
Valerievms@aol.com

New Members in December

David Blanco
Mark Samblanet
Joan Rippingale

That Great Pea Recipe by Janet Egan

1 lb. frozen peas, thawed or microwave 2-3 min
3-4 chopped green onions
1 can smokehouse brand hickory smoked almonds
1/2 cup mayonnaise
curry powder to taste



Congratulations to **Janet Egan** on the birth of her first grandchildren. That's plural! Yes, she is the grandmother of twin boys, **Matthew Gregory** (7lbs 5oz) and **Sean Christopher** (7lbs. 9 oz) born December 3rd.



DJ's for January 2003

Jan 8 Charlie Price
Jan 15 Craig Jennings
Jan 22 Larry Jones
Jan 29 Gerry Scott

Happy Happy Birthday January Babies

<i>Sam Lewis</i>	2
<i>Nancy Newman</i>	4
<i>Maria Butleranton</i>	5
<i>Melonee Clark</i>	5
<i>Terrie Cromer</i>	6
<i>Sandi Robinson</i>	6
<i>Norma Wark</i>	6
<i>Reta Ferguson</i>	7
<i>Phyllis Schulte</i>	7
<i>Janis Grimes</i>	9
<i>Craig Jennings</i>	9
<i>Lorraine Busey</i>	11
<i>Ruth Browne</i>	14
<i>Richard White</i>	14
<i>Ron Fisher</i>	15
<i>Pauline Easby Smith</i>	16
<i>Barb Raven</i>	16
<i>Ann West</i>	16
<i>Buzz Payne</i>	17
<i>Edwin Batchellor</i>	18
<i>Michael Miloszewski</i>	18
<i>Liz Kestler</i>	21
<i>Charles Price</i>	23
<i>Cris Gaines</i>	25
<i>Cathy Milchenski</i>	25
<i>Michael Agin</i>	26
<i>John T Price</i>	29
<i>Ivy Scott</i>	29
<i>Danny Norris</i>	30
<i>Jim Rose</i>	30

HERE'S A GUARANTEED INVESTMENT TIP FROM YOUR TREASURER: BUY NVSC

Is your retirement plan on hold because the stock market is in the toilet? Is your 401(k) something you are ashamed to talk about because you feel silly about the bad advice you listened to in 2002 and the bad investments you made, or the good investments you did not make? Are you looking for something that is most guaranteed to bring you a better return than the stock market, bonds, gold, commodities, real estate, art, collectibles, or pyramid schemes? If so, you should be looking at continuing your membership in the Northern Virginia Shag Club. And you should be out looking for friends to join the club and share in the dividends that come from belonging to NVSC.

Case in point: how much did you invest in NVSC in 2002, and what was your return? If you are a typical member of the club, you spent \$20 to either join the club or to renew your membership. In return, those of you in town received such dividends as free dance lessons on Wednesday nights for almost 50 weeks at such varied establishments as Nick's in Alexandria, Cecilia's in Arlington, and Nostalgia's and Rene's in Fairfax. You attended free (no cover charge) NVSC events such as the June pool party at Gary and Robbi Mann's house, the Sunday Social with Night Club Two Step lesson in August, the pre-S.O.S. party at the Coast Guard Station Anchorage Club in Alexandria in September, and the Holiday Party at the Springfield VFW in December. Everyone in the club who paid their dues contributed to the \$1,900 subsidy that the Board voted to spend on these events for the general membership. So far, it seems like a pretty good return on a \$20 investment. NVSC is actually like a small business that operates at roughly a \$50,000 annual spending level, including a \$25,000 birthday party for its 375 "shareholders" and guests.

In addition, everyone in the club benefited during 2002 from a very special category of NVSC members who contribute more than the \$20 that we all pay. Those special people are called volunteers, and they are the people who give up their time for the benefit of their fellow members, something more valuable than any \$20 could be. Some people volunteer to be officers and members of the Board and act on behalf of the general membership. Some people volunteer to go out and get pledges to dance and run our annual Shag-A-Thon and Golf Tournament to benefit Hospice of Northern Virginia, to the tune of over \$66,000 donated since 1999. Some people volunteer to write for or edit our monthly newsletter, the Shag Rag. Some people volunteer to be dance instructors for members new and old. Some people volunteer to register people at our workshops, to collect the cover charge at our parties, to share their homes and their food with out-of-town dance instructors and DJs, and to transport out-of-town instructors to and from airports. Some people volunteer to decorate the hotel for our annual birthday party, the Capital Shag Classic, or to decorate the Springfield VFW for our holiday party. Some people volunteer to help our Social Committee Chair prepare the food and beverage before and after our parties. Some people volunteer to staff our hospitality table or our logo products sales table at the Classic, when they most likely would rather be out there dancing and socializing like the rest of us. Some people volunteer for one event or function, some people volunteer for an entire year, some people volunteer year after year. If the subliminal message in this paragraph is not clear after being said once and repeated ten times, then let me spell it out: **some people volunteer.** Everyone benefits.

Another way of looking at the volunteer equation is this: what happens when people don't volunteer? The simple answer is this: things don't happen, and everyone suffers, even if they are not aware. Here are two examples about volunteering far from home. Does anyone know why the Northern Virginia Shag Club, which several years ago won First Place Marching Group in the first two S.O.S. Spring Safari parades it entered, no longer participates in the parade? The answer is because no one volunteers anymore to be in charge of planning and decorating and organizing an entry for the parade. Former volunteers are generally off volunteering for other things, and you can't volunteer to do everything. Likewise, does anyone know why the Northern Virginia Shag Club has had one and only one entry in the S.O.S. Miss Fun Monday contest, an entry that won First Place over 12 other shag clubs? The answer is because no one from NVSC has volunteered to enter. **(continued on the next page)**

Here's A Guaranteed Investment Tip from your Treasurer (CONTINUED)

So here we are, making plans to celebrate our unofficial 10th anniversary in 2003 as a club, and yet we no longer are even a minor player at premier semi-annual S.O.S. shag events in North Myrtle Beach such as the parade and the beauty (?) contest. In fact, NVSC isn't a player at all anymore.

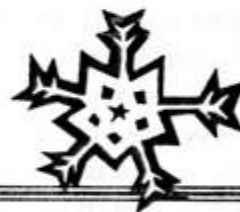
The same principle applies to a whole range of activities close to home on a weekly and monthly basis: when people don't volunteer, things don't happen, and everyone receives less from their investment, whether or not they realize it. Actually, it would not matter even if our club dues were \$50 a year, the principle would be the same: **volunteers make a voluntary organization go and grow. It's not just about money. Without volunteers, all the money in the world would just sit there.**

As we might suspect, some volunteers get tired, some lose their enthusiasm, drop out, burn out, chill out, or disappear altogether. Some move on forever, others eventually return. All of that is natural and is to be expected in any dues-paying, voluntary organization like NVSC. Of course, some members are gluttons for fun or punishment, or both, and they keep coming back to volunteer week after week, month after month, and year after year. (We hope and pray that those people are receiving professional help to cope with their disease.) The point here is that most volunteers at some point will want to eventually phase out and pass the torch to the next volunteer. Is anyone out there? What about you?

As I step down from the pulpit after my annual sermon to the choir and my fellow believers, I urge all of us to keep our \$20 membership dues coming to this fine dance club and to find and sign up new members. And for those of us who can, I encourage you to give some thought to volunteering your time and talents in some capacity to NVSC in 2003. We will be a better club for it, you'll know more about what it takes to keep a great club great, and we all will get an even greater return on our investment than we already do.

Happy New Year everyone!

Dennis M. Gehley, Treasurer



IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER:

If the weather is lousy and you think an Northern Virginia Shag Club event might be canceled, check the hot-line (703-960-4254) and find out the latest. If a decision is made to cancel or postpone an event, for any reason, the hot-line will be the first place that information is made generally available.

The hot-line is actually a Verizon voice, mail box, which means it can handle up to five calls at one. Feel free to call it often. As a rule-of-thumb for the Wednesday night dances, if the DJ thinks he make it, there will be no cancellation. Under normal conditions, the hot-line will contain, a hopefully, up-to-date information about future events - like who will be the DJ for the next Wednesday dance and what will be taught in the lessons.

