



Shag Rag

Dedicated to the Preservation of the Carolina Shag and Beach Music

November, 2001

Keep on Shagging'

Vol. VIII, No 11

President's Message by Heather Jennings

Happy Fall everyone! I hope you are doing well and that you were able to attend another FUN and successful NVSC shag workshop and party on October 13. The workshop by **Mike & Kay Anderson** was wonderful and the party and dance that night were fabulous! As far as I could tell, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the workshop. Thanks to **Janis Grimes** for coordinating with Mike & Kay so that NVSC could again provide exceptional shag instruction to our members.

If you missed the workshop, hopefully you were able to attend the dance that night held at the **beautiful Kenwood Country Club** in Bethesda, MD! Over 80 folks danced and partied to the fabulous music of our own DJ's **Craig Jennings** and **Gerry Scott**. Thanks guys for keeping us moving! Thanks also to **Betty Abshire** and her crew of dedicated volunteers for assisting with the check-in that night at Kenwood Country Club. The country club provided the food and did the cleanup (yes!), but volunteers were needed to staff the door. Thanks to all that helped and attended!

kay... on to more serious matters. **THIS IS IMPORTANT!!!! PLEASE READ!!!**

As many of you know by now, Nick has requested that we move our regular Wednesday night dancing from the front floor at Nick's to the back room. This is because beginning Nov. 7., Nick is planning to offer country dancing on the front floor. This means, of course, that barring a poor turnout by the country dancers this move would be permanent. Nick has said he **DOES** plan to increase the size of the back dance floor.

The important question for NVSC members is this: will this switch work for NVSC? The Board has given this a great deal of consideration and has decided that at least for the month of November, we are going to give the back room at Nick's a try. We are also exploring other options and would love to hear from the membership regarding this issue.

In the mean time, please try and support our Wednesday night dances at Nick's. Also – please note that on **NOVEMBER 21** (the night before Thanksgiving) we will **NOT** meet at Nick's, but at the Galaxy in Falls Church. We will still have lessons that evening and dancing from 8-11:00 pm. If you will be in town for the holiday, **PLEASE COME BY THE GALAXY** to dance there. If you have never been, the dance floor is **WONDERFUL** and more importantly, this is a facility that the NVSC Board is considering as a possible dance location and we'd like feedback from the membership.

Also – it is entirely likely that in the **NEAR** future NVSC will sponsor some additional dances either on Wednesdays or other nights to evaluate new dance locations. **PLEASE COME BY THESE**

ACILITIES SO YOU WILL KNOW WHAT THEY ARE LIKE! I believe that at some point in the future (possibly as early as December) we will need a special vote of the membership to determine what the final decision will be. It will help enormously if you have been to and danced at the various clubs under consideration. **THANKS FOR YOUR HELP! Keep on shaggin!!!!**

Pamela Alfano

President

As a member of the NVSC for more than five years, I have been involved in many of the activities and endeavors of the Club. I have been on the Board for over two years, as Secretary, Director-at-Large and Vice President. I have helped with the decorations for several Capital Shag Classics and chaired the Decorations Committee for the 2000 and 2001 Shag Classic. I am an active member of the Dance Committee and Chairman of the Charity/Fundraising Committee. I believe I am now prepared to take on the role of the Club President. If elected, I will continue to work toward making our Club as good as it can be while maintaining our primary purpose of promoting and preserving the Carolina Shag.

Michael Browne

Vice President

I am happy to say that I have been a member of our club since 1995 and that it has been great to see how our club has grown over that time. This last year I had the privilege to serve as a member of the club's Board of Directors. As a board member, I chaired the Public Relations Committee. Chances are that if you saw a flyer for a club event this year it was created by me. For the last two years I have been an active shag instructor for the introductory and beginner classes. Being a member of the board has been a great experience. I would like to continue my participation through continued support and improvement of our club activities.

Vaughn W. Royal

Secretary

I am presently a member of the Board of Directors, serving as liaison to the Dance Committee. During the last 3-1/2 years, I chaired the Audit Committee twice, and served on the Music Committee, the Dance Committee, the Charity and Fund Raising Committee, the Nominating and Elections Committee, and other committees. I enjoy teaching the dance and particularly value the friendships made since I became involved in shag. I make a point of attending other local and out-of-town dance events not only for fun, but because of the importance of keeping our Club visible in the larger shag community and learning from the experiences of other clubs. If elected Secretary, I hope to make a contribution to the continued growth and development of the Club, and to build upon the strong foundation created by the Club's founders and previous Boards of Directors.

Running for Treasurer

Dennis Gehley

I have been a NVSC member for six years and have served as your Treasurer for the last four years. I enjoy volunteering my time and talents as Treasurer. I like working to help keep NVSC's four bank accounts healthy and its financial activities honest and accurate. I enjoy working with other club officers, Board members, and our general membership to keep NVSC one of the best clubs in the entire Association of Carolina Shag Clubs. While I encourage others to think about running for Treasurer, I would also welcome the opportunity to serve as your Treasurer for a fifth year. Continuing to DJ for the club with Nancy and to serve on the Dance Committee is icing on the cake. (Did I hear someone say cake?)

Heather Jennings
Director at Large

I have been a member of the shag club for six years and been a board member for the past three years: a Director-at-Large Board member in 1999, Vice President in 2000 and President in 2001. In 1999, I chaired the Charity/Fundraising committee and in that position initiated the first NVSC Shag-a-thon to raise money for our charity, the Hospice of Northern Virginia. In 1998 I chaired the Hospitality committee at the Capital Shag Classic and in 1999 I chaired the entire 4th Annual Capital Shag Classic, initiating our move to the Holiday Inn in Alexandria. In 2000, while serving as VP, I chaired the Promotions committee, assisting the Social, Dance and Classic committees in promotion of all their events. During 2001, I was President of NVSC. In that role, I worked with my fellow Board members on all NVSC events, and also initiated our participation in the Alexandria Waterfront Festival and the first annual NVSC picnic. I have also been an active member of the Dance committee for several years. If elected, I will do my best to continue contributing to the club and will work diligently to promote the NVSC and the shag.

Linda Silbaugh
Director at Large

I joined NVSC in March of 1998 and presently serve as a Director at Large on the 2001 Board. Since that time I have been in charge of the decorations for the Christmas Parties in 1999 and 2000, Hospitality Chairperson for the 2000 Classic, committee member for the 2000 Shag A Thon and Chairperson for the 2001, Capital Shag Classic. I have enjoyed the activities of this club and my involvement tremendously. I would like the opportunity to serve on the board for a second year.

Joe Cornish
Director at Large

I joined NVSC in March of 1999. During the last two years I have co-chaired our annual Classic Golf Tournament for the Hospice of Northern Virginia. I also serve on the dance committee. I feel that serving on the board will enable me to more fully understand the workings of our club.

Linda Romero
Director at Large

I've been a member of NVSC for 3 years. I currently serve on the Dance Committee and have worked on the Decorating Committee for the Capital Shag Classic. I'd like to serve on the Board as a way of showing my appreciation for all the fun times spent with wonderful people, dancing to great music!

Libby Ash
Director at Large

I am running for director at large. I have been shaggin' since I was twelve and was so excited to find the NVSC in 1999! I joined the club on the spot and have been a member ever since. I have also been a member of the dance committee for one year, helping to promote the dance we love so much. The NVSC has given me the opportunity to meet new friends and through those friends I received an abundance of laughter, love and support. I would sincerely be honored to serve on the board and would welcome the opportunity to give back just a little of what I have received.

Jewell Pradier
Director at Large

My name is Jewell Pradier and I am running for a director-at-large position for 2002. I have been a member of the Northern Virginia Shag Club since March 2000. Since joining the club, I have assisted with various events including the 2000 and 2001 Capital Shag Classics. Most recently, I have had the pleasure of working with Linda Silbaugh and Don Borja to re-design the cover and contents of the 2001 Capital Shag Classic program. If selected for the position of director-at-large, I will continue to volunteer my time and talents to the Capital Shag Classic Committees as well as other club sponsored events.

Larry Boyer
Director at Large

I have been a member of the Northern Virginia Shag Club and have served on the teaching committee from its beginning. I am presently in my rookie year as a board member. Watching our club grow in size and seeing the growth in the number and quality of events we sponsor has been very gratifying. In large measure the good health of our club will continue by staying on our present course. We should continue to search for new members, particularly in the younger under-represented age groups. I am a strong supporter of the junior program. While many of our new members do not continue for a second year, this is natural to some extent. Nevertheless we should continue to look for ways to get our new members hooked on shag. A recent concern, in the wake of the attacks on our country, has been a decline in attendance at our regular Wednesday night lessons and dance. It is imperative for the long term health of our club to maintain good attendance at our weekly dances.

Dan Ferguson
Director at Large

Two years ago I met a number of NVSC members and first saw the shag dance. I was hooked on the dance and the friendly people. Now, after *lots* of lessons, I can even dance a little. (If you've danced with me and have a different opinion on that, don't tell me.) The club and its activities have become a significant and important part of our lives. It would be a privilege to serve on the board.

Betty Abshire
Director at Larger

I have served on the Board of Directors for the NVSC for the last five years. I have been charring the social committee for the last four years. The job is comprised of seeking facilities to hold social functions and orchestrating food for the occasion. The job has been very rewarding, I enjoy organizing our social functions and the opportunity it gives me to meet new people. I would be honored to serve on the 2002 board, if I am elected.

NVSC Events at Ft. Myer....

by Heather Jennings

As many of you may know, we are planning our annual Charlie & Jackie workshop and party for January 5, 2002. Both the workshop and dance are scheduled to be held at the Ft. Myer Community Center which is a wonderful facility that we have used many times before. Unfortunately, due to the Sept. 11th attacks, all military installations are performing at a heightened level of security. Ft. Myer is certainly no exception. In order for our club members to attend functions at the community center on Ft. Myer we must now **PROVIDE A LIST** of those planning to attend any events held on the post. This includes a list for the workshop and a separate list for the dance. If you are planning to attend **EITHER** of these events you **MUST LET US KNOW NOW** so that we can compile the lists and submit them to the post in a timely fashion.

The day of the workshop and party: When you reach the gate at Ft. Myer, if you have DOD ID cards and DOD automobile stickers on the front windshield of your car, you will have your ID cards checked to confirm that the IDs match the occupants. If you do not have a DOD ID you will have to show a drivers license/picture ID. Your name will be checked against the list provided by the club, and your car **WILL BE INSPECTED** inside and out after the occupants are asked to get out of the car. Please do not take any unnecessary items (luggage, golf clubs, etc.) onto the post as this may increase the amount of time spent by the MPs searching your vehicle.

If you do not provide NVSC your name early enough to get on the list submitted by the club you will likely have a very difficult time getting on the installation or may be turned away at the gate. Please remember too that this is **SERIOUS BUSINESS** and the Ft. Myer MPs are not likely to take any guff off anyone. Once your car pulls onto the installation, you are on federal property and subject to federal law. If you are at all considering attending the Charlie & Jackie workshop or party, please e-mail Valerie at vms@olg.com or call Heather Jennings at 540-775-5342 by January 1, 2002 to be included!!!

Nick's - more than just a place to dance!!!

Listen up folks... I suppose I shouldn't be surprised to find myself writing this article... I know that **MANY** other shag clubs have had similar trouble. What is the problem you may ask? Well, to put it simply - we all need to remember to **SUPPORT NICK'S** on Wednesday nights. And when I say "support", I mean we need to remember to buy a hamburger, drink a beer or order an appetizer while we are there. Nick's is in business to make money and it seems that lately we may have been taking Nick's for granted and simply using it as our "dance venue." (i.e. - show up, dance, drink water, and leave.) We are **EXTREMELY** fortunate to have a place like Nick's to dance **EVERY** week. (Many shag clubs in the Carolinas only meet once a month!) Nick's has a large floor, a great menu, and a reasonably priced cover charge - particularly for the DC area! So please - let's do everything we can to **KEEP** our regular dance night. Show up a little early and order a burger or have an appetizer. If you prefer, you can "shag" on over to the bar and order a nice cold beverage!

Just remember - Nick's is more than just a place to dance!

To the members of the Northern Virginia Shag Club (NVSC) on the day of my retirement:

Thanks to all of you for your friendship these past 29 months. Of particular note I wish to send my fondest wishes to Vesta Jones, Betty Abshire, Linda Silbaugh, and Sandy Ferony. I was so taken by Vesta that first intro lesson that I knew I had to learn more of the shag just to dance with her. Betty was so patient with me as she tried teaching me the "sailor shuffle". Linda and Sandy also encouraged me to continue shaggin'. Thank you all. David Rodgers has demonstrated steps and has offered to assist at any time. Thanks David. Saving the best for last I wish to thank a very special lady who began dancing on Wednesday nights in June or July 1999. She was so lovely and personable and was willing to dance many times with a less than smooth or accomplished dancer. Libby Ash has been so supportive and encouraging that I continued to try to become somewhat proficient in the shag. Of the partners with which I have been privileged to dance, Libby has been the absolute best for me. She encouraged me as I messed up steps, caught up with me when I got off beat and started a new six count in mid step, and taught me new steps as we danced. Ms. Libby Sue Dupre' is the complete dance partner and is an absolutely beautiful person. There are many others that made me feel welcome but are too numerous to mention. A special THANK YOU to Nancy and Dennis Gehley who have been a real treat when they DJ'd. The NVSC was [and is] a wonderful gathering of warm friendly people. I ask that each of you take time to greet and know the other members of your shag club; the members with whom you have yet to establish a friendship. The recent events show how much each of us can and sometimes must depend on each other. I hope that we can meet again sometime and re-visit wonderful memories together. Though not a permanent goodbye, I wish all of you fair winds and following seas. I care for all of you.

**Most Respectfully,
Speedy Dunn**
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Bye from Louie Mitchell

The project I was on in Virginia is being down sized since it is not considered mission critical. So I'm heading home to North Carolina. Thanks for the great southern hospitality and new friendships. My wife Joan and I hope to make it up the Capital Classic next year. My Wednesday nights will never be the same.

Planning on going to the Coast Guard Friday night to Dance

NEW security procedures are in place. In order to get in the gate you will need to have your **name on a list** at the gate and you will have to have a **picture ID**.

Gary Salpini and Larry Camp are preparing a list for the gate. Please contact one of them. Gary can be reached at 703-425-2848 or gary.salpini@verizon.net. Larry can be reached at 703-550-6468 or benz280@aol.com.

