



The Colonial Crier

newsletter of

Colonial Shag Club, Inc.

a member of the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs (ACSC)

February 2019

Hampton, Newport News, York County, Poquoson, Williamsburg, Virginia Founded In 2001

State of the Colonial Shag Club

I'll try to keep this shorter than the State of the Union speech the president is due to make soon. We finished 2018 with 266 Regular members, 335 Associate members, and 2 Junior members. Some day, I'll look up the threshold for what is considered a large shag club by the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs (ACSC), but I'm betting 601 adult and 2 Junior members puts us close. At the end of each year, the number of Associate members resets to zero, and each Associate attending for the first time in 2019 must renew their membership. Regular members can renew before the end of the year and save the \$5 initiation fee that must be paid if they rejoin after letting their membership lapse. As of January 25th, we have 216 Regular members and 64 Associate members. Not as large we were, but still a thriving club.



Those are the numbers, but they don't tell the whole story. Our club consists of a lot of really good people with whom I am proud to be associated. Our club is on sound financial footing, and the board looks for opportunities to give back to the club members in the form of free dances, birthday cakes, and other refreshments. As a side note, the 50-50 drawing is the primary fund raiser for the club.

Many of you may not realize that a requirement for our sanction by the ACSC back in 2002 was to have a dedicated charity that the club promises to support. We picked Menchville House, an emergency housing facility for homeless families. The Charity dances that we hold periodically are in support of that ministry.

In closing, I'm making another plea for volunteers. We have not filled the positions of Webmaster and Membership Chairperson, and we need a couple more people on the Refreshments Committee. Please see me or any other board member if you are willing to support your club in these positions.

Regards,

Mel Hemphill



Remember when ...

"... the region's current January (2018) snowfall of 12.8 inches — officially measured in Norfolk — is "twice the normal" for the month"

excerpt from the Daily Press for
January 18, 2018

The beat goes on thanks to our to our

club board of directors and committees

Directors and Officers

President: Mel Hemphill — 757-869-1164,
mkhemphill@verizon.net

Vice President: Jerry Nichols —
757-532-2722, jerrylana@verizon.net

Recording Secretary: J R Jones — 757-593-2509,
jrj1s5522@gmail.com

Treasurer: Rosalie Mitchell — 757-898-7229,
rosie@ywcva.com

Corresponding Secretary: Joe Mitchell —
757-879-5859 jmitchell30@cox.net

Directors At Large:

Marion Butsavege — 757-486-0277, pupraven@aol.com

Sheila Kerr-Jones — 757-262-9668, 2skj1s1@gmail.com

Tim Kroskey — 757-870-0234, tkroskey@yahoo.com

Lana Nichols — 757-357-2071, lananick1@verizon.net

Committees

Audit — tbd

Budget — tbd

Beverage — tbd

Cards — Diane Capps

Charity — tbd

Christmas party — tbd

Communications

Newsletter — Lloyd Pitzen

Social Media (Facebook) — Lisa Jones

Website — Joe Mitchell

Dance instruction — Jerry Nichols

Junior program — Joe Mitchell

Hospitality — tbd

Membership — Beth Liivak

Music — Tim Kroskey

Nominating — tbd

Photographer — tbd

Social — tbd

Venue negotiations — Joe Mitchell, Jerry Nichols, Harry
Walthall

Venue Operations — J R Jones

Ways & Means (50/50 raffle)— tbd

The Colonial Crier is published monthly for the Colonial Shag Club members.

Editor: Lloyd Pitzen, newsletter@colonialshagclub.com

the music goes on thanks to our colonial tunesmiths

February

2 Greg Howell

9 Jerry Hardy

16 Larry Black

23 Cindy Black

March

2 Lloyd Pitzen

9 Jerry Hardy

16 Greg Howell

23 Larry Black

30 David Miller

See colonialshagclub.com for any updates to deejay schedule

Happy birthday — February

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Carolyn Felder | 16 Nancy Mason |
| 1 Kendall Hockaday | 17 Suzanne Kolesha |
| 2 Shirley Baucom | 18 Betty Hargrave |
| 2 Laura Smith | 21 Donna Templeton |
| 4 Diana Cook | 22 Janie Tompkins |
| 7 Brenda Pollock | 24 Cyd Kroskey |
| 9 David Miller | 24 Marla Warner |
| 10 Bill Williams | 26 Lisa Cooper |
| 11 George Oehler | 26 Jeff Pagels |
| 12 Cindy Matheson | 27 Debbie Fertitta |
| 13 Janet Zenarolla | 27 Diane Underhill |
| 14 Jim Cooper | 28 Pat Hughes |

Colonial Shag Club

A Proud Member
Of The:



Colonial Shag Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 12104
Newport News, VA 23612-2104

Through the National FastDance Association, our club
dance activities are licensed by:



Dance lessons at the club's Saturday night socials

6-7pm

- A six-week series of *beginner* shag dance lessons begins the first week of each **odd-numbered** month. The lessons are progressive — starting with the basic steps and adding a few turns/moves in the following weeks.
- After six weeks of beginner lessons, *beyond basic* lessons will be given for the remainder of the month.

Want to see flyers for shag opportunities in Hampton roads and beyond? Take a look at *Boogie on the Bay* Facebook page — *Upcoming shag opportunities* photo album

To get the latest info on our club events, go to

Colonialshagclub.com

Shag dancing every Thursday

at
Mario's Italian Restaurant
with deejay Jerry Canada

is no more

Sale of the property has brought the weekly event to the end of a seven year stretch.

It remains to be seen if the new owner will restart the event

Kudos to Jerry for playing the tunes to keep people dancing regardless of the weather being fair or inclement

Our Events

Club social — Saturdays 7-10pm at Two Left Feet Dance Studio in Fairway Plaza Shopping Center, 1405 Kiln Creek Parkway, Newport News. Social is preceded by one-hour dance lesson; (i.e., lesson 6-7pm)

Cover charge — \$5 regular member, \$7 everyone else
You may bring your own beverage and snacks (including beer, wine, and alcohol)

Other Shag Dance Events

Virginia Beach Shag Club *Mix & Mingle* Wednesdays at Royal Courtyard, Virginia Beach. See VBshagclub.com

Boogie On the Bay Shag Club social — Friday nights at *Big Woody's* in Chesapeake Square Mall in Chesapeake

Lessons by Boogie on the Bay Shag Club instructors Tom Edwards and Marsha Ruth — every Tuesday night at *Big Woody's* in Chesapeake Square Mall in Chesapeake, 7-9pm

Northern Neck Shaggers — dancing every Thursday night at *KC's Crabs and Cues* on Rt. 200 a few miles north of Kilmarnock, Virginia. Deejay Greg Howell. See *Northern Neck Shaggers* on Facebook

2019 SOS events

in North Myrtle Beach (unless otherwise specified)

- Spring Safari April 25 - May 4
- Summer Workshop July 12-14 in Charlotte, NC
- Junior SOS, July 16-21
- Fall Migration, September 12-21

Sadly, **David Baucom’s** dance to earthly music came to its last beat. David passed away in the first month of this new year.

David and his wife Shirley have been long-standing members of our club. Even though they moved to the Villages in Florida several years ago, they supported our club when in town — most recently attending our Christmas Party.



“We know that they’re gone, the memory lingers on. They still dance here every night”

— words from song *Shadow Shagging* by Tommy Black

River City Shag Club kept the beat going as they moved back and forth

As two properties changed ownership in Elizabeth City over the past decade, the River City Shag Club has moved back and forth between the two.

Harvey Taylor, the club’s deejay, typically has a few Keb’ Mo’ tunes on his playlist with one of them named “Move.” So, in a sense, Harvey has foretold these moves with Keb’ Mo’ lyrics “It’s time to move. Pack up your stuff and just move. Sho’nuff you got to move”

In October 2018, the club vacated their regular meeting place, La Tiendita Mexican Restaurant, in search of a new home. After using the Pasquotan Ruritan Club as a temporary refuge, the club hung their ‘home sweet home’ sign up again in The Pines country club with a house warming social on January 12th. Only this time The Pines has a new owner and a new name — *YMCA at the Pines*.

In May 2017, the club moved from the Pines country club to the La Tiendita Mexican Restaurant, which had been the home of the club (then named City Meeting Place) before moving to The Pines.

In September 2017, the owner of the *Pines Country Club and Golf Course* in Elizabeth City donated the property



to the *College of The Albemarle (COA) Foundation*. The COA Foundation, not being in the business of running a social/recreational facility partnered with the *YMCA of South Hampton Roads* to run the country club and golf course. The *YMCA of South Hampton Roads* and the COA have been working together for more than

fourteen years, sharing space at the *Zack D. Owens and Martha Anderson Owens Health Sciences Center* in the *Albemarle Family YMCA*, located on COA’s Elizabeth City campus, which is only about a mile away from The Pines.

The mission of the YMCA is to help people “achieve and maintain a healthy spirit, mind, and body.” Hmm — sounds like a place for shag lessons and socials.

The River City Shag Club has lessons and dancing on Wednesday nights and a dinner and dance on the second Saturday of each month. For more information about River City Shag Club events, see their Facebook page.

..... by Lloyd Pitzen

The following was published in January 9, 2019 edition of the Suffolk News-Herald by staff writer Alex Perry

It is reprinted with permission from Alex Perry.

Shaggers in the heart of Western Branch

One and two, three and four, five and six. Marsha Ruth kept repeating the steps as more than 30 pairs of dancers followed instructions from her and Tom Edwards, the two lead instructors on the dance floor at Big Woody's Bar and Grill in Chesapeake Square Mall.

Older men and women moved carefully on the bar's tiled floor that was brightly lit on the evening of November 27. The soundtrack was Patti LaBelle and Junior Walker, a "slower" playlist that makes for an ideal beginner's lesson for Boogie on the Bay Shag Club members and newcomers, especially after Thanksgiving.

"After all that turkey ... it's time to dance it off," Ruth said.

The Boogie on the Bay Shag Club consists of 190 active members that come together through a shared enthusiasm for shag dancing. Founded in 1991, the club originally met at a Holiday Inn in downtown Portsmouth. When that hotel was torn down, the club moved to Norfolk and then eventually to Big Woody's, partly for the sizable dance floor but also for its central location in Hampton Roads, according to club president Donna House.

"It's close enough and the people here have been really good to us, plus we've been good to them," House said. The club meets for Friday night socials each week and Tuesday night shag classes. Members at the November 27 class greeted each other like family over dinner and drinks before lessons begin.

"They're very friendly, and they've got something very friendly in common, which is dance," or the Carolina Shag, to be precise, House said.

Carolina Shag is a partner dance that's become popular in national and international dance competitions across the United States. According to Southern Living, the Shag was born on the beaches of South Carolina in the 1940s, when dancers stepped and twirled smoother and faster. The name solidified in the '40s and '50s and has ebbed and flowed in popularity since, according to Southern Living. "And, as if it couldn't sound any more Southern, the Carolina Shag has lived on to being



Couples at the Boogie on the Bay Shag Club cut a rug at a Tuesday evening lesson at Big Woody's. The club also holds Friday night socials at Big Woody's

described as a 'cold beer on a warm night with a hot date and no plans for tomorrow,'" the article reads.

The dancers at Big Woody's were in week four of a six-week beginner class, at which point they know what to do with their feet along with a couple turns, Ruth said. Members often bounce between beginner and intermediate lessons to get comfortable and precise with their movements. "I've been doing it for 27 years, and I still go back to basic classes," Ruth said. "You learn something new from a different instructor every time." She and Edwards have been teaching together for more than 20 years. According to Edwards, the first thing beginners need to have is a desire to learn. "The second thing that's a big help is that they have some rhythm," he said. "If they can tap their feet to the beat of the music, then it's going to make it easier for them to dance on the beat." Some rookies struggle early on but spin their way out of that rut with practice. "We had some people come through the class who couldn't find the beat with both hands, but they wanted to learn and they worked on it, worked on it, worked on it," he said. Charlie, 43, and Teri, 42, Nunley have been part of the club since February. They started with slow and worked their way up to multiple outings each week, and neither of them had any solid dance experience coming in.

"You just jump right in, take it all in and learn as you go," Charlie Nunley said.

They were looking for a way to meet new people after he retired from the Coast Guard, Teri Nunley said, and the club has been a great fit.

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“So many people will take you under their wings,” she said. “They really help you, (even) outside of the day-to-day instructions.

“It’s just friendly and nice and they want you to get it so you’ll keep coming (back).”

It’s not just foot work and hand positions that draws a crowd of older dancers to Woody’s each week. Most of them are retirees and empty nesters, with some members pushing 90 years old, according to House.

In February, the club sponsors Shaggers at Heart, a workshop and dance weekend in Williamsburg that sells out of more than 200 tickets within just 48 hours. They come together to see old friends and fellow dancers they’ve known for decades. House and her friends have personally seen many wedding engagements between members, as well.

“These people get you through your bad times and your good times,” she said.

Members may be getting up in age, but they’re staying healthy and mobile to the tune of “I Don’t Do Duets.”

“We all have the same thing in common, and we all help and work with each other,” House said. “There’s no age difference when you get out there on the floor.”



is the theme of the
Colonial Shag Club social
on Saturday, February 9th

A Very Shaggy Valentines featuring

deejay Harvey Taylor

February 16th

at Royal Courtyard

\$5 cover charge

Food and drink available for purchase

329 Birchwood Park Dr, Virginia Beach

757-431-0045

Franklin Shag Club

Valentine social

Wednesday February 6, 7-10 pm

at Fred’s Restaurant

107 South Main Street, Franklin

The Franklin Shag Club dances the first Wednesday of every month, 7-10pm, at Fred’s



Eagles Nest—
Chesapeake

Sunday February 17

Doors open at 4, band starts at 6
call Debbie Hubble at 757-681-7165 or
Larry Williams at 252-455-1515 or see
Wayne Tate for tickets

Eagle’s Nest, 1723 Parkview Dr.,
Chesapeake

2019 Virginia Shaggers Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

March 22-24

Crowne Plaza Hampton Marina hotel
700 Settlers Landing Rd, Hampton, VA
\$95 per person — includes special events such as Free Pour on Friday and Saturday, buffet dinner on Friday evening, and plated dinner on Saturday evening.

No one-day tickets and no refunds.

Tables seat 8 and may be reserved — full payment required at the time of reservation.

To reserve seating, contact Valerie Canada at valvshof@gmail.com or 757-484-8398

Registration form is available on
www.VSHOF.com

Induction of new members on Saturday night

Call hotel 757-727-9700 for reservations for special price of \$99

2018 Virginia Shaggers Hall of Fame

Pre-party

Thursday March 21

At Bull Island Brewery across the court from the Crowne Plaza Hampton Marina hotel

700 Settlers Landing Rd, Hampton, VA

No cost - just show up and have a good time

Inductees:

- Patty Walker — Colonial Shag Club
- Sandra Alford — Virginia Beach Shag Club
- Brenda Kennedy — Virginia Beach Shag Club
- Larry Maynard — Virginia Beach Shag Club

Bands coming to The Banque

on Sundays in February

3rd Janitors

17th Good Shot Judy

24th Ocean Breeze band

Doors open at 4. Band starts at 6:15

The Banque, 1849 East Little Creek Road,
Norfolk
757-480-3600

To see what's happening at
Two Left Feet Dance studio
go to twoleftfeetdancestudio.net