



The Colonial Crier

newsletter of

Colonial Shag Club, Inc.

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

August 2023

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

President's corner

"Memory lane," according to Marriam-Webster.com, is "an imaginary path through the nostalgically remembered past." Wiktionary.com describes it as "A set of recollections available to be reviewed, especially accompanied by a feeling of nostalgia." For most people "a stroll down memory lane" conjures up images of such things as times from our youth, vacations, travel, and other exciting excursions — even meeting your soulmate or spouse. Often, it is a time that brings smiles, chuckles or laughter, and even a feeling of extreme happiness or euphoria. Sadly, too, it can be times remembered that were dark and stormy. Mostly though "memory lane" recognizes a remarkable time in one's past. I recently took that stroll myself. Oh, but it wasn't of my past, it was that of Colonial Shag Club. I had the opportunity to review through a collection of documents from the club's past. It was a very learning experience and, in some instances, humorous (seeing Harry with a mustache). So, I hope you don't mind that I've provided below a short list from the club's early years:

April 2000 – Larry Williams and Cindy Goree begin teaching basic shag dance on the Virginia Peninsula.

April 2001 – The start of weekly shag dance lessons at Mitty's (was in what is now Holiday Inn at I-64 and J. Clyde Morris Blvd). A dance club is beginning to form.

December 2001 – It's official, Colonial Shag Club becomes a reality. Jay Magness is the club's first president.

June/July 2002 – Milestone moment: CSC is now 100 members (dancers) strong.



September 2002 – Colonial Shag Club was accepted into the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs.

March 2003 – Colonial Shag Club receives its charter (i.e., registered as a corporation in Virginia). "Business as usual" is the norm.

April 2003 – CSC adopts its official club logo, selected by a contest. Contest winner – Harry Walthall.

October 2011 – Fast track and Wow, Colonial Shag Club is celebrating ten years. So much has happened over those first years. What does the future have in store for our club?

Above, I've shown only a very, very small snapshot of the inception of our club. A lot of work from many, many people went into forming, nurturing, and growing our club over the years. Memories created through all the events planned and attended (including a world record breaking event). Contests entered (with winners at all levels, I might add). And of course, lifelong friendships created. Now in 2023, after twenty-one years of "shagging to the music," it's no different than the past. It still takes involvement from our members to continue to nurture and grow our club. To our new members and "experienced" members, I encourage you to become involved. Join a committee, become a greeter, or help with fundraisers. Give a helping hand when and where you can. Above all, you can most clearly demonstrate your support by attending the weekly dances. Be an ambassador for your club (within the club and the community), and create new memories for yourself when next you take that stroll down memory lane.

I've some great news for everyone. After a few months of effort, we will soon have a source where you can purchase CSC gear — t-shirts, tumblers, mugs, and much more. Our Ways & Means chairperson, Bobby Chiles, had a source back in April/May that looked promising but unfortunately for us that supplier didn't work out. Recently though, (several weeks ago actually), we were introduced to a new company called *Print On Demand*. *Print On Demand* is owned/operated by our very own club

(Continued on page 2)

The beat goes on thanks to our **board of directors and committees**

Directors

President: Mike Dyson — 480-886-8774 ,
mikedysonsr@gmail.com

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

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

Treasurer: Patty Swan —
treasurer@colonialshagclub.com

Corresponding Secretary: Joe Mitchell —
757--879-5857, jmitchell30@cox.net

Directors At Large:

Bobby Chiles — 804-386-8954,
BCPOPPPOP@gmail.com

Judy Chiles — 804-475-9439,
judyharrischiles@gmail.com

Colette Quinn — 757-871-0961,
dancnme@gmail.com

Jaime Wood — 804-514-5732,
jaimewood@hotmail.com

Committees

Cards — Diane Capps

Charity — Sheila Kerr-Jones

new committee

Christmas party — tbd

Club enhancement and venue liaison — Harry Walthall
(chair), Camille Walthall, Jerry Nichols, Lana Nichols,
Bobby Chiles, Judy Chiles, Patti Walker, Rex Walker,
Patty Swan, Jo Hardy, Dwayne Hardy, Sandra Alford,
David Sawyer, Janice Grimes, Steve Booth

Communications

Newsletter — Lloyd Pitzen

Newsy — Joe Mitchell

Social Media (Facebook) — Lisa Jones, Connie Sledd

Website — Joe Mitchell

Dance liaison — Jerry Nichols

Hospitality — Jamie Wood

Membership — Bonnie Arms

Photographer — Alan Michaelis alanmichaelis1946@gmail.com

Social — Rhonda D'Bene (chair), Debbie McCusker,
Darla Frederick, Jim Frederick, Dwayne and Jo
Hardy, Keith D'Bene

Ways & Means (50/50 raffle)— Bobby Chiles

(Continued from page 1)

members John and Susan DeKoff. They have a variety of merchandise to offer on which our club logo can be displayed. I'm told that they can even do customizations. In recently talking with John, he stated that a brochure/catalog will be soon ready. Looking forward to when the time comes. We'll have John bring in samples of his wares and provide you with instructions on how you can place your order. Thanks, John and Susan, for providing this opportunity for our members.

Another bit of news. Harry Walthall has accepted the position of chairperson for the CSC Club Enhancement and Venue Liaison Committee. The purpose of this committee is to acquire information and develop strategies for enhancing club activities and participation. Primarily, they will be in contact with you, the members, and talk about your ideas, suggestions, and concerns. This information will be discussed within the committee, and a plan will be developed for inclusion into the club's activities. Harry will then present this info to the board for review and further action. The committee will be your voice and the voice of our club. As the committee's name states, they will be also the liaison between our club and Two Left Feet, communicating club plans and ideas to our venue and bringing suggestions from TLF to the club. We should be encouraged by the implementation of this committee because its main objective is to increase participation, increase membership, and enhance the relationship between our club and Two Left Feet. So, if you have an idea, a suggestion, or comment, please feel free to speak with one of the committee members. The committee members are listed in the left column of this page. Another quick note: a 2nd survey is being developed for dissemination. The Newsy will notify you when it is ready to be sent out. It would be encouraging to see everyone participate.

Before closing, I want to remind everyone that Saturday, August 12th Rick Tvelia and Two Left Feet Dance Studio will be hosting its 2nd Annual TLF Ice Cream Social. This will be held during the normal times of the Saturday night dance. Come out and show your support for your club and Two Left Feet.

Notable quote: "Community is much more than belonging to something; Its about doing something together that makes belonging matter" Brian Solis – American digital anthropologist, speaker, and author.

See you on the dance floor.

Mike Dyson

President, Colonial Shag Club



1	Diane Jessie	22	Don Milton
3	Ed Canada	23	Jane Renger
6	Sandy Basnight	24	Barbara Elliott
7	Kathy Lewark	24	Wayne Robbins
8	Kathy Hardison	25	Sonny McRea
17	Ron Johnston	26	Carol Miller
21	Keith D'Bene	26	Phillip C. Walker
21	Lloyd Pitzen	27	Toni Termini

What is SOS?

Founded in 1980, the Society of Stranders (SOS) is an organization that perpetuates the traditions of beach music and shag dancing. “Stranders” has to do with North Myrtle Beach being situated on a stretch of beach known as the Grand Strand.

In 1989, the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs (ACSC) took over managing the SOS organization and still manages it today.

SOS is widely recognized for organizing two yearly adult parties, Spring Safari and Fall Migration, held in North Myrtle Beach. People go to these events to have fun, enjoy the beach, see old friends, and to make new ones. What started as a small reunion of friends is now attended by thousands.

Both yearly SOS events are ten days in length and encompass the majority of the local lounges in the Ocean Drive/Main Street area of North Myrtle Beach. Inside these participating lounges, bands and deejays play shag tunes. It is non-stop fun from early in the day until the wee hours of the morning.

Each SOS event includes special activities like dance workshops, contests, live entertainment, a parade in the Spring, and “Fun Sunday” and “Fun Monday” in the Fall. Fun Sunday and Fun Monday each consist of three bands playing sequentially on a temporary stage set up near the intersection of Ocean Drive and Main Street. Moreso than being about organized happenings, SOS is people doing their own thing on their own schedule — meandering through the numerous dance clubs (in walking distance from each other) and partying in hotel rooms

In buying an SOS card, you are buying a membership in SOS for one calendar year. And the card gives you free access to the dance clubs during an SOS event.



Ice cream social

Saturday, August 12th

as part of the Saturday night social at
Two Left Feet

SOS Fall Migration in North Myrtle Beach

September 14-24

See Sheila Kerr-Jones to purchase SOS card for \$30 — it is your pass to get into several nightclubs at SOS

Other shag clubs

Virginia Beach Shag Club *Mix & Mingle* every Wednesday night at DanceSportVA, Virginia Beach. See club’s Facebook page.

Boogie on the Bay Shag Club social every Friday 6-9:30pm at *Big Woody’s* in Chesapeake Square Mall in Chesapeake. See the club’s Facebook page.

Boogie on the Bay Shag Club shag dance lessons every Tuesday 7-9pm at *Big Woody’s* in Chesapeake Square Mall in Chesapeake. See the club’s Facebook page.

Boogie on the Bay Shag Club Christmas party, December 2nd at Fraternal Order of Eagles #795, 521 Maple St, Chesapeake, VA

Franklin Shag Club social first and third Wednesday of every month at *Fred’s Restaurant* in downtown Franklin. See the club’s Facebook page

Richmond Shag Club social every Tuesday night at Visions Night Club in Double Tree hotel, Midlothian. Beginner shag classes from 6:30 until 7:15 followed by dancing until 10pm. Line dance lessons second Tuesday of each month

Outer Banks Shag Club social first and third Monday each month, 4-7pm at Duck Woods Country Club, Southern Shores, NC. See the club’s website

River City Shag Club social every Wednesday night at CPOA Club, Elizabeth City. See the club’s Facebook page.

River City Shag Club Christmas party, December 16th, Elizabeth City. See the club’s Facebook page.

The Colonial Crier is published monthly for the Colonial Shag Club members. Editor: Lloyd Pitzen,



A party of one, a table for two or more

In transitioning from a “couple” self-identity to a “single” identity, being confronted with tables for two or

more when entering a restaurant alone can be intimidating. I was in that stage in year 2005 when I started taking shag dance lessons hosted by Boogie on the Bay Shag Club at the Holiday Inn on the Portsmouth waterfront (hotel has since been demolished). Rudy was one of my classmates at that time, and he too was at that stage in life after his bride of 57 years passed away in 2004. He was 80 years old at that time — 80 years old and starting a new chapter in life. The ending of the previous chapter was written for him, not in a way that he would have chosen. He penned this new chapter.

For shag dance lessons, one does not have to bring a partner. Many people don’t. The shag dance lesson environment at shag clubs is



structured in such a way so as to get rid of the intimidation. It does not take long for a party of one to be greeted by tables of two or more instead of being

“confronted.” And from there, the participants can more comfortably go to their first shag dance social, having enough skill to enjoyably dance and possibly attend with new friends from the classes.

Once in the shag community, Rudy met Laverne who was already shag dancing. Rudy married LaVerne. And the chapter continues with Rudy and LaVerne enjoying each other’s company and enjoying fellowship with others in the shag community. This chapter

continued until 2017 when LaVerne passed away.

Rudy passed away in July of 2023 at the age of 97. Rudy was active in the community. An excerpt from his obituary is “He was a Past Master of South Norfolk Masonic Lodge #339, Past District Deputy Grand Master of the 36th Masonic District, Chaplain of South Norfolk #339 for many years, a Khedive Shriner and member of the Khedive Autos.”

LuVerne passed away in April of 2017 at the age of 86. Besides having a charming personality, LaVerne was known for often wearing a colorful hat. An excerpt from LaVerne’s obituary is “Most knew her to be donning a beautiful hat and shagging on the dance floor. ‘I’d rather dance than eat,’ she’d often say. A member of the Red Hat Club, LaVerne’s positivity and energy fueled a life in motion in which she was also a real estate maven, piano lover, quilter and bank wizard with a keen sense of style.”

This story is an advertisement for the value of the shag dance environment. At the age of 80, Rudy ventured out and, as a result, enriched his life with help from the shag dance community. Such a story rings true for many other people. At first intimidated by a table for two or more, getting into the shag community can easily result in finding a table for two or more with the other chairs occupied by friendly smiles. With many of the newcomers being widows and widowers who are finding their way through a grieving process, the shag dance environment offers a haven for a ‘single’ who is looking for fellowship and activity.

..... by Lloyd Pitzen



Outer Banks Shag Club is back in the groove!

Before Covid, the New Year's Eve Party and the pig pickin' were institutions. After being interrupted by Covid, they are back!!!!!!



Colonial Shag Club dances every Saturday night

at Two Left Feet Dance Studio

Newport News

Doors open at 5:30pm

shag dance lesson 6-7pm, dancing 7-10pm

\$8 for member of any shag club, otherwise \$10

Soda and water provided, Snacks welcomed,

Alcohol permitted

Shagging Christmas Dinner & Dance

Two Left Feet Dance Studio

Saturday, December 16

7pm —

\$40 per person

deejay Jerry Hardy

Tickets go on sale in September

Attendance limited to 100

catered by same caterer as was used for 2021 Christmas party

Beginner shag dance lessons

four lessons, four sequential Saturdays in September beginning September 9

each week 4-5pm at Two Left Feet Dance Studio

free

Outer Banks Shag Club
Presents

BACK TO THE BEACH

NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA

December 30th and 31st

at the newly-renovated

Comfort Inn South, Nags Head, NC 252-441-6315

\$160 per person — limited number of tickets available

December 30 — casual dinner

December 31 — formal evening with banquet

two free pours, silent auction, 50/50

shag and line dance lessons by Tom and Donna House

ABSCDJ deejays Harvey Taylor and Greg Howell

Enjoy food, fun, and a champagne toast

oceanfront rooms — \$119, soundside rooms \$79

limited number of rooms at these prices

For more info, contact Sally 252-207-1074, wvobx@aol.com

Provide name, address, city, state, phone, quantity of tickets, club affiliation, email address, check payable to OBSC and mail to:

OBSC, 5204 Pine Hill Lane, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949



Pig pickin' !!!!

Sunday, September 17

Bell's Island Community Center, Currituck, NC

Food served at 1:30

(all covered dishes need to be on site by 1:15)

\$10 admission fee

BBQ, cole slaw, rolls, cornbread, beverages

Deejay Harvey Taylor

Bring a covered side dish, lawn chair, dancing shoes

For headcount purposes, RSVP to Lisa Corbett before

September 11th

757-737-1113, shaggin252@gmail.com

Outdoor concerts

Wednesdays

Live on the Square at Port Warwick

Newport News
6-9pm

August

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>2 Inside Out Band — top 40 party band</p> <p>9 Nashville Nights Band — authentic 90s country music</p> <p>16 Good Shot Judy — swing and swagger with classic vocal jazz entertainment</p> | <p>23 Forte Jazz Band — jazz, a magical musical experience</p> <p>30 Vinyl Headlights — popular rock, pop, and dance music from yesterday to today</p> |
|--|--|

Sundays

Groovin' by the Bay at Mill Point Park, Hampton 5-8pm

August

- 6 Tidewater Drive Band
- 13 Savannah
- 20 J & the Band
- 27 Soul Intent

Thursdays

Sounds of Summer at Riverwalk Landing, Yorktown

6:30-9:00pm

event weather hotline 757-890-3520, visityorktown.org

August

- 3 Slapnation
- 10 The Main Event Band
- 24 Tidewater Drive

Thursdays

Sunset Thursdays — Portsmouth

6:30-9pm, Festive park (16 Crawford Circle)

August

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>3 Calden and Company (R&B, Jazz)</p> <p>10 Tidewater Drive Band (Jazz, R&B, Reggae)</p> <p>17 Ned Harris and The Appeal (Jazz, R&B, Funk, Soul)</p> | <p>24 Blackwater Band (Top 40's, Blues, Funk, Country)</p> <p>31 RaJazz (R&B, Jazz)</p> |
|--|---|

Band of Oz

Wednesday, August 9 at Southampton Franklin fairgrounds

Gates open at 4pm. Band starts at 7pm

Bring your own chair. This is an outside event.

Beer and food available!

This is part of the August 9-12 county fair

\$10 admission to the fair

The Entertainers band

Barrett's Landing, Franklin

September 29th, 6-10pm

food trucks, beer, and wine available

Introduction to Brennar Goree

Concerning the letter from Brennar Goree in the right column, those who came into the shagging community in the last few years may not be familiar with him. So, introduction is given here.

Brennar Goree, is the son of Cindy Black, is now 33 years old, grew up in Virginia Beach, and grew up with Colonial Shag Club Saturday night socials as part of life. In years 2003 through 2010, those who attended the socials and read the newsletter saw his dance skills first hand and read about his achievements in dance competitions. Year after year, as junior shagger, he competed at national dance competitions, such as the US Grand Nationals Dance National Dance Championships in Atlanta, Georgia and the US Open Swing Dance Championships in Burbank, California. Both of these events had shag and swing dance categories for adults and juniors. Brennar always placed in the junior shag and junior swing dance categories, more often than not taking first place.

Brennar no longer lives in Hampton Roads. He moved away in 2009 to California, later to North Carolina, and then to Florida where he resides now.

The Colonial Shag Club Saturday night social attendees back in those days were periodically treated to mingling with and watching the dancing of skilled junior shaggers from the Hampton Roads area — including Brennar, Justin Poston, Chelsea (Hornberger) Williams, and Kim Myers. Justin, near in age to Brennar, also competed in the juniors category in the US Grand Nationals and took first place more than once.

Brennar has traveled the world, sowing seeds of shag and swing dancing. This includes Moscow and Australia to name a few.

The following is an introduction to Berta Lull, who is mentioned in the letter, Berta Lull, who passed away in 2022, resided in Virginia Beach. She founded the National Living Legends of Dance. Berta was inducted into the Beach Shag Hall of Fame in 1996.

Letter of Appreciation written by Brennar Goree upon his nomination to the National Living Legends of Dance

SUBJ: LETTER OF THANKS TO VIRGINIA

20 July 2023

Fellow Virginians,

Considering the recent nomination into the National Living Legends of Dance (NLLD), I wanted to take a moment to express my sincerest gratitude to those across the state who impacted my life over the years. I will write a formal letter to deliver for NLLD, but I wanted to first rewind and thank the Virginia Shaggers Hall of Fame and the Shag Clubs across the state for making all this possible for our family. To say I am honored and humbled to receive recognition from the Virginia Shaggers Hall of Fame would be a vast understatement. No words can fully convey my appreciation and thanks. Lord knows I could not have said all of this or probably held it together on the mic, so I wanted to take the opportunity to show my appreciation to you all.

First, thank you to Ms. Joyce Burnley for having the initial vision to create an outlet to honor those junior shaggers in Virginia who have played an integral role in growing our dance. I loved getting the opportunity to enter the Virginia Junior Hall of Fame alongside such an incredible group of people. They are my brothers and sisters, my previous dance partners, my mentors, and my long-time friends.

Thank you also to Mr. Steve Booth for always leading and speaking with such class and charisma. Your introductions for everyone going in were well thought out, elegant, and delivered with thoughtful intent that honored each inductee in the most meaningful and unique way. Bravo, sir! That said, I am certain Ms. Janis also plays a vital role in your planning and preparation and her class is always unmatched. Thank you *both* for your kindness, support, and consistent contributions to our state and the dance over the years. Berta would be proud of the example you continue to set.

Thank you to the Shag Clubs who provided a means for me to grow in my dancing and teaching through the years. I can honestly say, the Shag Clubs in Virginia played a huge role in my growth and development as an inspiring dance professional. You all gave me a means to dance and connect with people that did not require my mother having to drive to the Carolinas only to progress. For that, we are forever grateful, and it is worthy depicting my journey with each of the clubs.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

I first started in group classes at Steppin' Out in Virginia Beach with Larry and Cathy Williams where I met my soon to become stepfather Larry and long-time friends, the late great Mr. Bill Williams and his beautiful and talented wife Steva. I also met Grant, Ginger, and the Poston's, Ms. Jan, Fran, Jackie, and many others over the years who all treated me like family. So close to home many of my fondest memories took place in Virginia Beach. I attended the National Living Legends of Dance hosted by the late Berta Lull in '99 with my Nana at the Officers Club in Little Creek. Berta would go on to adopt me like a son and support me beyond measure as I grew up. In fact, years later, she even invited my Junior Shag Dance Team to perform as a dress rehearsal every year before U.S. Open. Thank you for your support, Virginia Beach!

Boogie on the Bay Shag Club also provided a location just a short drive away from us to go Shagging. I remember going there to drill my footwork with Fran Harris, Marsha, Tom, and Cathy, learn line dances and work on my boogie walk. I'll never forget going to the Chamberlain, taking from Jac and Erin and dancing under the moonlight overlooking the Chesapeake Bay. What a party, too ... of course only Cokes and Shirley Temples at that time! Thank you, Boogie on the Bay!

Just a short drive over the Hampton Roads Tunnel and we landed at Colonial Shag Club thanks to the initial start fueled by the late Sterling Nichols and his wife Dottie. Over the years, Colonial Shag Club became like home where I helped with the weekly lessons at Mitty's, did homework, ate brick oven pizza, deejayed with Larry and Jerry Hardy, worked on spins and footwork with Tim Miller and snuck off upstairs to prepare for competitions with Justin and Cati. I would talk about life with Dottie and Sterling, Harry and Camille, Tim and Janet, and the list goes on... Thank you, Colonial shag Club!

As we moved Northwest, we landed in Richmond where I often practiced with my first Nationals partner, Amanda Tedesco, and even competed in many CSA contests there over the years. To this day, I'm still close with many people in the area. Thank you, Richmond!

As a teenager, a club called Battlefield Boogie formed and Don, Audrey, Graig and Heather trusted me to teach their first out-of-towner workshop. I remember the step I taught to this day and thought how proud I felt to get the opportunity to travel and teach in my own state. I even remember getting some gas money for the mustang, too! Thank you, Battlefield Boogie!

I remember countless trips to Northern Virginia to the Northern Virginia Shag Club. My mom navigated D.C. traffic to get me to the dances, but it was worth the four hour drive every time. I would practice with Kari Jones, make up steps with Vesta, Vaughn and Cathy, Joan and countless others who supported me and afforded us a place to dance. Thank you, Northern Virginia!

There are clubs now in the state that continue to carry on the dance we love. I salute you. Without your sacrifice and commitment, opportunities would not exist for young dancers like me. Without clubs, I most likely would have never entered the competitive Shag arena. From the bottom of my heart, thank you all.

To my family, without you, there is no me. My dad, Nana, stepfather Larry and my mother would drive me up and down the road, bought me countless loafers, clothes to match partners in competitions, funded lessons/coaching, and encouraged me to do my best. Perhaps the most valuable lesson they taught me was to be gracious for the wins *and* the losses and provided their shoulder when I needed it most.

Last, but certainly not least... Mom, your tireless devotion to me and unconditional love and support is beyond words. The dance, our family and I are extremely blessed to have you in our corner continuing to pour your energy into all of us. You would practice with me in the garage for hours and hours. You would take my dance videos away when I was grounded, you encouraged me to learn all dance forms, gave me opportunities to teach, and even traveled the world with me paying it forward. This award is just as much yours as it is mine. I certainly would not be the dancer or the man I am without you. I love you, Mom.

Thanks you all again for all the priceless memories and all the love and support for the last 25 years. I am forever in your debt.

Always a Virginia Junior Shagger at Heart...

Sincerely,


