

Rhythm & News

www.richmondshagclub.org



Richmond, Virginia

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From The President

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!!!!**

Shortly before the holidays one of our club members told me that the Richmond Shag Club had saved her life. She wasn't trying to be dramatic; she just very calmly stated that the Richmond Shag Club had saved her life. Many of you may instantly know what she meant.

I've been to several holiday parties since then, some with RSC folks and some that were completely non-RSC related. Last night, I attended a party that a friend of mine threw who visits the RSC from time to time and she introduced me as her Shag instructor. That caused a little bit of a stir because some folks had never heard of shag dancing, they only knew the Austin Powers form of Shag – Groooovy Baby! Anyway, after a brief explanation of the dance, everyone settled down and the party continued.

I love talking about the dance and our club at parties. Folks are always amazed that we have over 400 members in our club, that we meet to dance several nights a week, and that on Tuesday nights, we normally have more than 100 folks there. They ask me about the style of dance or sometimes they tell me. "That's like the Lindy" or "That's like line dancing". "Hhmmmm, not exactly", I say. At that point my friend grabs me and says, "let's show 'em". And then she asks me, "Am I the guy?" "No." I say, "I think I better be the guy." I take her through the start and a couple of female turns and then she moves off to greet more guests.

I talked to several partygoers that night that were curious about the Richmond Shag Club. I answered their basic questions and tried to explain the intangibles of our club, like all of the great people in our club, the sense of community, and the wonderful relationships we develop with folks from out of town. At the end of the night, one lady made me write down all of the pertinent details of the club for her friend who likes to dance.

Our first beginner class of the New Year is Thursday, January 6. Will the Richmond Shag Club save a life from that class? I don't know. I hope that over the course of those beginner lessons, the folks who take them will learn to dance, enjoy the folks they meet, and learn a little bit more about the intangibles of our club. I hope they will find a place with the nicest people they have ever met in their lives. I hope they will make new friends, try new things, and find a place that leaves them feeling renewed and positive. To me, those are the ultimate benefits of our club.

See you at the club.

Jane

P.S. I want to thank **Kathy Lane** for coordinating our Care and Concern Committee. Kathy is one of the nicest folks you will ever meet and she did an excellent job of reaching out to our members in their times of need.

I am very pleased to announce that Carol Ann Thomasson will be taking over the duties of Care & Concern. Please notify Carol Ann if you know of any club members who are going through an illness or difficult time—happy news is always welcome as well!

You may email Carol Ann at thomassc1@netzero.net or catch her at the club.

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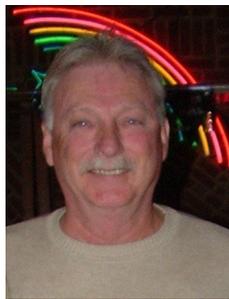
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2010 Dance Committee Wrap Up

Well, we have come to the last article to the RSC's newsletter for 2010. I want to start by thanking all of the instructors who have volunteered their time and efforts to our dance schedule for the year. We have had another great year teaching our new students and I hope that all of you will continue your journey and learn even more steps from this dance called SHAG. Remember, you have to practice.

This year our dance instructors voted **Will Hazel** as our most improved male dancer, **Nancy Thomsen** as our most improved female and **Kelli Mallinger & Darrell Ratcliffe** as our most improved couple. Congratulations to all of them.

I will not be returning as dance committee chairperson for 2011 but would like for all of you to welcome **Barbara White** as chairperson, as she will be heading this committee the coming year. If anyone should ask you about lessons or demonstrations, please call or submit them to her. Once again,

Thank you and see you on the dance floor. Remember to ask someone to dance.

Dink

Host & Hostess

Introducing RSC Front Desk Staff: **Bev Dillard**... and anyone that I can cajole into helping me staff the RSC Desk. I have done this before and it is a great job for many reasons. Thus when my arm was twisted, I said okay, but with caveats. I cannot be there on the first Tuesday of each month and the third Thursday because of other commitments. If anyone would like to supply on a regular basis the "job" of meeting and greeting.....and processing a few renewals or new memberships; I would really appreciate any help. On the spot training is favorable and forthcoming. Otherwise, if I am left alone **Parker** will be taken out of circulation as a partner for ladies needing a willing male lead. (Ohhh no!!) I will supply a calendar for signing up for specific dates. You would enjoy helping at either Tuesday or Thursday duty. We have a nice time in our corner and usually pick up some good steps, and meet new/veteran dancers while WE keep RSC organized. Just once in a while is all that is needed. Many hands make light work; or something like that has been said before. Think about it.

Bev Dillard

2010 General Membership Meetings

March 15 * May 17 * August 16 * November 15

All General Membership Meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn Koger Center in a meeting room and begin at 6:30 PM. All members are encouraged to attend.

BIRTHDAYS

EXPIRATIONS

January

February

Norman Seay
 Joe Tedesco
 Diane Dew
 Billy Bain
 Sue Moore
 Glenda Harris
 Steve Bateson
 Jerry Morrow
 Janis Grimes
 Cathy Gullede
 Linda Strawderman
 Larry Price
 Jill Porter
 Richard Graham
 Kaye Williams
 Betsy Smith
 Fay Coates
 Mary Ann Lesnick
 Betty Seay
 Emory Minnick
 Larry Fischer
 Cliff Merritt
 Pat Mason
 Ron Coleman
 Norma Opel
 Hannah Combs
 Penny Richardson
 Betty Carter
 Parker Dillard
 Joyce Parker
 Dick Frush
 Jean Bazemore
 Doug Erck
 Bruce Justice
 Jim Johnson
 Buck Giannini

01 Nancy Wall
 02 Sue Williams
 03 Kendall Hockaday
 03 Barbara Pettesch
 04 Victor Thatcher
 08 Pam Shultz
 08 Donald Reebals
 08 Bruce Arnett
 09 "Bubba" Andrews Jr.
 13 Sandra Mawyer
 14 Debbie Mullian
 14 Darrell Ratcliffe
 14 Linda Hass
 14 Donna Kontopanos
 15 Beth Brown
 15 Dawn Harman
 15 Jerry Scaglione
 16 Charles Cohill
 16 Georgeanna Jensen
 16 David John
 16 Yvonne Ricciardelli
 17 Roger Bennett
 18 Jackie Fischer
 19 Nancy Wood
 19 Bev Robinson
 20 Sam Short
 20 Mel Wilson
 24 Tom Stillman
 24 Brenda Gray
 25 Tim Sullivan
 25 Jamie Lewis
 26
 28
 28
 28
 29

01 Beth Ager
 01 Frank Armistead
 01 Fran Armistead
 03 Billy Bain
 03 Charlie Barnes
 06 Carrol Bronson
 07 Nick Canderelli
 07 Charles Cohill
 09 Anita Danner
 09 Oliver Draughon
 10 Bill Everett
 10 Vince Ferranti
 11 Martha Foley
 11 Buck Giannini
 12 Richard Graham
 12 Johnny Hall
 12 Jim Hall
 13 Linda Hass
 13 Shirley Holmes
 14 Calvin Holmes, Jr.
 17 Candace McKinley
 22 Cliff Merritt
 22 Kathleen Minnick
 23 Emory Minnick
 24 Debbie Mullian
 25 Emmett Nuckols
 26 Sheila Parker
 27 Judy Richmon
 27 Judy Thatcher
 27 Victor Thatcher
 28 Wyon Wheatley
 Sam Williams
 Kaye Williams
 Marty Yeatman

January

February

Bubba Adams
 Brenda Adams
 Ruth Avent
 Lisa Renee Bailey
 Susan Bain
 Steve Bateson
 Sherry Beck
 Jo Blanchard
 Becky Butler
 Frank Butler, Jr
 Ann Dunnivant
 Jerry Duvall
 Butch Earnhardt
 Sherry Gaillard
 Dewain Hammond
 Nita Hammond
 Dawn Harman
 Gary Harman
 Darlene Hughes
 Jamie Lewis
 Alan Michaelis
 Glenn Miller
 Sue Moore
 John Moore
 Bob Owen
 Joyce Reebals
 Donald Reebals
 Jane Renger
 Pete Saunders
 Carol Spangler
 Dottie Stanton
 Linda Strawderman
 Don Swank
 Francis Thompson
 Margaret Turner
 Mike Umstead
 Tom Varney
 Tammy Varney
 Gloria Wright



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Dance Committee

Happy New Year Everyone!!
Can you believe it's 2011 already?!! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and partied hardy on New Year's Eve! I know we did!!

As we begin the new year, I just want you to know how excited and honored I am to be your Dance Committee Chairman and look forward to working with our many talented and committed dance instructors. I know with their help, we will have another successful year of instruction and hopefully inspire those new to the shag to join our club. I also want to take this opportunity to thank **Dink Slaughter**, our outgoing Chairperson, for the outstanding job he did in 2010.

As Chairperson, one of my duties is to coordinate requests for dance demonstrations within our community. Please let me know if you belong to an organization that would like to have some of our volunteers provide a demo or a one night basic instruction class. The more visible we are in our community and bring attention to our dance, the easier it will be to attract new members to our club.

Since this is the first newsletter of the year, I'd like to take this opportunity to go over shag etiquette (manners) on the dance floor especially for new members. Just consider this a refresher for you older members.

Dance etiquette is nothing more than polite consideration of your dance partner and others around you as well as a concern for the safety of everyone involved. Good dance etiquette helps to avoid accidentally offending or harming other dancers or people around you. When in doubt about a specific point of etiquette, just remember the Golden Rule and treat others as you would like to be treated and be kind, generous, courteous, and considerate of others. The following is information that has been found on other shag club sites and I would like to share it with you. It covers everything you ever wanted to know about dance floor etiquette but didn't know to ask!! You don't know what you don't know but after reading this, go forth and be ladies and gentlemen that the Richmond Shag Club can be proud of.

Everything here applies to both males and females whether you think it does or not! And remember – they are just suggestions, not the gospel; however, it **is** good etiquette. Although some of this stuff may sound negative, most of the time it is never an issue when dancing – but there are always the “clueless” and the “special people” that think that the rules and graces don't apply to them. Try not to be one of them and . . . *Good luck on the dance floor!*

1. Show your appreciation. If dancing to a live band, applaud the band. If dancing to music played by a DJ, tell the DJ how much you appreciate him/her and they don't mind applause when it's appropriate either. They don't just play for the money! The more you show your appreciation, the better they will play and feel.

Also, don't forget your waitresses and bartenders! They work hard to accommodate you so show your appreciation and be kind!

2. The dance floor is for dancing. If you're having a conversation or learning something new, move off the dance floor. Dance space is a premium, so, if you're not dancing, stay off

the dance floor.

3. The dance floor should be treated with care. Beverages, food, lighted cigarettes, and chewing gum should never be brought on the dance floor.

4. Asking for a dance. It is equally permissible for a woman to ask a man to dance as it is for a man to ask a woman. Take your partner's hand onto the dance floor and at the end of the dance, thank your dance partner. Typically, it's good etiquette to accept an invitation to dance, but if you don't want to dance, say so politely by saying, “No thank you.” If someone turns you down, accept it graciously and ask someone else to dance. Don't be persistent, take them at their word. It's considered bad social etiquette to refuse a dance on the basis of preferring to dance with someone else. In addition, declining a dance means sitting out the whole song. It is inconsiderate to dance a song with anyone after you have declined to dance it with someone else. The choices are to dance with whoever asked first, or to sit out the dance.

5. Keep your opinions to yourself. It is not polite to correct your partner on the dance floor. Remember, this is social dancing! If someone does ask for help or instruction, kindly take them off to the side away from the other dancers.

6. Dance class instructors should do the teaching. *If you are in a dance class, let the instructor teach. The instructor will ask for your help if needed.*

7. Use Selective Floor Placement. Establish your slot and continue to dance in it. Usually the first couple on the dance floor will establish the slot.

8. Dance small. Don't dance all over the floor as nobody likes to be pushed around the floor. Also, save the arm waving, long and wide footsteps, and wild leg movements for elsewhere. Aerials, drops, and slides are best left for jam sessions, competitions, and performances. These type patterns are not appropriate for the social dance floor. You are not the only one on the dance floor and you could hurt someone!

9. Leaders are responsible for looking out for the safety of their partners since they are directing their movements. Keep them out of danger and be aware of the dancers around you.

10. Leaders, make your partner comfortable. If you are dancing with a less experienced dancer, dance to their skill level. Work as a team, don't showboat.

11. Leaders, keep it quiet. If you must count and give verbal leads, keep it low enough that just you and your partner can hear. It can confuse those around you.

12. Pay attention to the beat of the music. Just because you can count doesn't mean you're on beat. J

13. Be aware of the dancers around you. Bumping into other dancers is inevitable. If you bump into someone, kick someone, step on someone's foot, or if they bump into you, **always apologize whether it was your fault or theirs.** (Even a short non-verbal gesture will do in some situations.) Show concern that no serious injury occurred.

14. Take care of your personal hygiene. For your partner's sake, avoid eating garlic, onions, or spicy foods, and always brush your teeth and shower before going out dancing. If you perspire a lot, pace your dancing, or bring extra shirts, T-shirts, blouses, etc., and change sweaty clothing. Sometimes mints or deodorants will be the right choice!

Please remember the instructors cannot teach properly if there is “other” instruction going on by the desk. It is very distracting. If someone asks for your help or wants to learn a new step, please take them out into the hallway or to the lobby (if not occupied by hotel guests) to show them privately so as not to take the focus off of what people are trying to learn.

Finally, if you are an experienced dancer and you are

helping to partner because of a shortage of men or women in the class, we ask that you please do not jump ahead of the instructor and show them higher level steps during class. Please help to instruct only what the students are learning – keep it simple so as not to confuse.

Let's have another great year of dancing and fun!!

Barbara



Stuff On My Mind

As we wind down the year 2010 I thought about stuff that happened this year that I thought was good stuff. The first thing that comes to mind is that I have noticed more new dancers this year really practicing hard, and really taking the shag seriously and really improving. It makes me feel good to see new dancers really pushing themselves to the limit to be proficient in their new adventure. I see them asking instructors, and I see instructors going over it and over it with them until they get it right. This takes great patience and I'm seeing this patience in our instructors and this is really good stuff.

Also, I think it's really neat that the parents are bringing their kids to RSC to learn to shag. Mother, Daughter; Father, Son; working together on a new challenge, spending time with each other, good time, healthy time. And how about all the members who are now working with their grandkids, and their nieces and nephews, taking them to Junior SOS, and to CSA contests, again doing something together! It has to be so rewarding, and it proves that the shag is for all ages and can be a family affair.

I also think it's important that we all congratulate some fairly new members that have stepped up and challenged themselves to go in to competitive dancing. This, to me, shows a great respect for the dance and a commitment to try to be the best. As proud as I am of these guys, what is really phenomenal is the long time great dancers and instructors who at a later age have decided to throw caution to the wind and step up on the competition dance floor. All I can say is WAY TO GO and I wish I still had the nerve to do it. This is good stuff!

Another thing on my mind is the recognition this year by the Richmond Shag Club of three old timers who have been regular fixtures at RSC now for a long time. They may be elderly in age but when they dance, they dance young! **Russell Harris; Bill Long, and Gladys Peters** were all made Honorary Lifetime Members this year and it will be announced at the Christmas Party. **Gladys** always wants to do the "sugarfoot"; **Bill** can be seen on the side teaching the girls, and **Russell**, well Russell is not only a great dancer, he's just my hero!

Some really good stuff is the strength of RSC not only in numbers (**400 is latest**), but in strength of dedication to raising money for our charity, and also providing the maximum return to the members for their membership fee. Most clubs don't get to meet twice a week, and a lot of clubs do not have any instruction, nor do they have the number of social events. The founders of our club had the foresight to draft a set of by-laws (i.e. Our Constitution) that would insure that the club was of the members, by the members and for the members, and that there would be checks and balances on the governing body to insure and maintain good strong lead-

Ways & Means



Hello everyone and let me begin by saying I am very excited about being the Chair for the Ways and Means committee

for this coming year. I appreciate the confidence of my fellow RSC Board Members and the regular membership. I know the task ahead of me will be a tough act to follow; I can only promise that I will do my best to follow in the footsteps of **Carl Beck** and those of **Tim Sullivan** before him.

I am very grateful that Carl has agreed to once again coordinate the **Brunswick Stew** project that will be held on the weekend of **February 25-26**. I will also be very appreciative of any others that will return and help. Carl has told me about the guys getting together on Friday night and the great support of our ladies on Saturday. I can only hope that in 2011 this fun, fellowship and fund raising project can be as successful as it has been in the past.

We will continue with our 50/50 raffles on Tuesday nights and I will invite any willing lady or ladies to join me in this venture since I know that is the secret to selling the tickets. A good looking lady, and we have an endless number of those in the RSC, will sell more tickets than some knuckle head like myself any day so I will welcome your help with open arms.

With events at Myrtle Beach and at other venues just around the corner I will be taking a look at our RSC Logo apparel and taking both orders and ideas on new items. If you need any logo items or have ideas for new items please share them with me at your earliest.

Again I am excited about this coming year and my new role in the club and I look forward seeing all of you enjoying yourself on the dance floor.

John Hall



ership. This year we had an election for the president. Newer members wanted to know if this was good or bad. It is definitely good. It allows us (as our by-laws intended it to), to make sure the members participate in choosing their governing body. Elections are healthy. They provide a chance for the members to speak. The bottom line is it gets everyone involved in moving forward toward a common goal of maintaining good leadership. To me, that's just good stuff!

I have enjoyed being on the board for the last 8 or 9 years, but these last three years as Vice President have been a blast. You don't have to do anything in that job. I still don't know exactly what the V/P is supposed to do. I'm going to ask Tim next year and see if he knows. If it paid it would really be great! I'm just kidding and I've run out of STUFF.

The Wolfman



change throughout the year. You may e-mail these changes to DixieRenger@comcast.net. She will update the database and forward the information on to Jane so that she can keep mailings and phone tree lists current.

We will also be posting a monthly calendar near the desk at the club that will include club activities and the instructors for the month.

We very much want everyone in the club to know about activities that are going on at the club. If you e-mail us changes, that helps us keep a record and make the changes quickly. If you do not have e-mail, please bring us a notice of change in writing to the desk at the club.

Thank you so much for helping us to keep you up to date on the happenings of the RSC. We are looking forward to a great year and we want you to be a part of it.

Keeping Up With The RSC

One of the great things about the RSC is that we have a lot of activities. We are always trying to keep our club members involved whether it is Sunday Socials, Pool Parties, or Shag Jams.

One of our challenges is getting the word out about these activities to our membership. We are a mobile society and e-mail addresses and phone numbers change more often than **Barbara White** changes outfits at SOS.

There are a couple of things that you can do to stay informed and to help us keep you informed. First of all, when you renew your membership, please make sure you fill your application out neatly and completely every time. I know this seems like a pain, but it helps us keep your information in our database current.

Secondly, we now have a Group on Facebook called The Richmond Shag Club. If you are on Facebook, you can search for the group and request to become a member. This is one location where we post information about activities. Over the years, we have had requests to print a membership book. This is an expensive endeavor and one that would need constant updating. However, on Facebook, you can keep up with RSC members and Friends of the RSC under the Richmond Shag Club group. I strongly encourage you to join.

Thirdly, please keep us informed when you have an address, e-mail address, or phone number

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\$25.00 fee for returned checks

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Last First Nickname Birthday (Year optional)

Name #2: _____
Last First Nickname Birthday (Year optional)

Address: _____
Street or P.O. City State Zip

Phone: _____
Home Cell Work Occupation: _____ (Optional)

E-Mail Address(es): _____
(Newsletter, messages about Club activities, events, membership renewal reminders, member news, etc.)

Choose one: I prefer to get my newsletter by e-mail or, in the mail.
 If you do not indicate a preference, it will be sent by e-mail.

I would be interested in helping with the following committee(s):

Annual Party Membership
 Communications Social
 Dance Ways & Means
 Golf Tournament Please contact me,
 Host & Hostess I need more info.

New Members
 I learned about the RSC from:

A friend that is a member
 Someone taking free classes
 Another shag club out of town
 A demonstration at an event
 An advertisement
 The internet

This information is true to the best of my knowledge. By my signature, I agree to abide by the rules and by the bylaws of the Richmond Shag Club. I understand that my membership may be revoked by the Club at any time if may be deemed necessary. I agree that the Richmond Shag Club and its Board of Directors shall not be held responsible for any accidents, personal injury or loss of any personal property associated with my attendance at, or participation in, any Club function.

For RSC Staff Only
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 Check #: _____
 Rec'd By: _____

Member #1 _____
Signature Print Name Date

Member #2 _____
Signature Print Name Date

RICHMOND SHAG CLUB

rhythm & news

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