



The Colonial Crier

newsletter of

Colonial Shag Club, Inc.

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

January 2024 revised

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

President's corner

The first thing I would like to do is give a Thank You to Mike Dyson for his leadership of our club during the last two years. The pandemic put a damper on our club and created many challenges for our leadership. As president, Mike did a commendable job in leading us back from that difficult time.



Welcome to the 2024 version of the Colonial Shag Club. This is our 23rd year in existence. Back in 2001, there were twenty five of us taking lessons from Cindy Goree and Larry Black, when one night in the fall, Cindy suggested that it was time to consider starting a shag club. All of us students jumped at the idea and got started right away forming a club. We had to select a name for the club and a board of directors. There were several club names suggested including Colonial Shag Club. We had a vote and the rest is history. We were very fortunate to have Jay Magness agree to guide our newly-formed club as our first president. The other board members were Tom Wiley, first vice president; Sam Martin, second vice president; Janet Richards, recording secretary; Joanie Edwards, corresponding secretary; Dudley Nachman, treasurer, Cindy Goree, director at large; Anne Soter, director at large; and Harry Walthall, director at large.

We set several priorities for our new club. The first priority was to be the friendliest club in the ACSC (Association of Carolina Shag Clubs). Secondly, our club would be an all-volunteer club, meaning we all would chip in and do our part to make the club successful. That was when we only had twenty-five members. As Cindy and Larry continued to teach beginner lessons as well as more advanced lessons, it wasn't long before our club started to grow. In the fall of 2002, our club selected Menchville House as its charity and held the first charity dance. Through the kindness of our members, we were able to give one thousand dollars to Menchville House, this with only about fifty club members donating to the charity. Jay led us for the first two years and the club continued to grow. We never forgot the promise we made in 2001 to be the friendliest shag club in the ACSC, and, with the help of our members, we will strive to continue that promise.

In 2024, it is my hope that our members step up and volunteer to help with committees, dance lessons, parties, charity events, and promoting our club. For several years before the pandemic, our club had over 200 members, and we regularly had attendee numbers in the mid 70s to 80s. There are several factors that

have caused our membership to decline to fewer than 200 and our attendees to around 60ish. Obviously, the pandemic was the major cause. It is also my opinion that the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel construction is a big factor in limiting our south-side friends from attending our Saturday night events. Rick Tvelia, owner of Two Left Feet Dance Studio, has been very patient with the club in hopes that the attendance would return to the pre-pandemic numbers. This hasn't happened. As a result, as of our first dance in January, the fee to attend our Saturday night events will be ten dollars for any one who is a member of any shag club and will be twelve dollars for everyone else.

I ask all members to help our club be what it was before the pandemic. This means to volunteer your services and help us promote Colonial Shag Club. We have a ways to go, but I'm confident that with every member's help we can get our attendance back to the level we once enjoyed.

Hope to see everyone on the dance floor in 2024.

Harry

Colonial Shag Club dances every Saturday night

at Two Left Feet Dance Studio

Newport News

\$10 for member of any shag club, otherwise \$12

Soda and water provided, snacks welcomed,
alcohol permitted

For the four Saturdays in January: doors open at 5pm,
beginner shag dance lesson 5:30-6:30pm, intermediate
shag dance lesson 6:30-7pm, dancing 7-10pm
(the beginner lesson, in itself, is free; however, the
admittance fee applies after the beginner lesson)

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

Directors

President: Harry Walthall — 757-784-8380,
 thewalthalls@cox.net

Vice President: Bobby Chiles — 804-386-8954,
 bcpoppop@gmail.com

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

Treasurer: Patty Swan — treasurer@colonialshagclub.com

Corresponding Secretary: Dwayne Hardy —
 703-727-0818, jimmymacblues@gmail.com

Directors At Large:

Jerry Nichols — 757-532-2722, nicholsjerrym@gmail.com

Patti Walker — 757-713-7484, pwalker@realtyinc.biz

Rex Walker — 757-715-7484, rwalker@realtyinc.biz

Camille Walthall — 757-784-8380, thewalthalls@cox.net

Standing committees

Charity — Judy Chiles

Dance instruction — Dwayne Hardy, Jerry Nichols

Elections — TBD

Financial review — John De Koff, Susan Ross

Membership — Bonnie Arms

Music — Harry Walthall

Nominating committee — TBD

Social — TBD

Ways & Means — TBD

Ad hoc committees

Communications

Newsletter — Lloyd Pitzen

Newsy — Dwayne Hardy

Social media (Facebook, Instagram) — Lisa Jones, Connie Sledd, Harry Walthall

Website — Joe Mitchell

Hospitality — Camille Walthall

Photographer — Alan Michaelis
 alanmichaelis1946@gmail.com

Venue Liaison — Harry Walthall, Jerry Nichols, Dwayne Hardy,
 Bobby Chiles

Ways & Means (50/50 raffle)— TBD



11	J. R. Jones
11	Lisa Jones
13	Susan Ross
17	Michael Guida
17	Margie McRea
2	Lydia Mugler
20	Insuk Fondacaro
4	Rex Walker
21	Bobby Chiles
4	Cal Woolard
25	Lana Nichols
7	Judy Cassani
28	Laverne Barrow
7	Dee Fertitta
30	Bill Harnsberger
9	Janis Grimes
30	Carolyn Magness
11	Rose Howell

Four weeks of free beginner shag dance lessons

by Colonial Shag Club instructors

at Two Left Feet Dance Studio, Newport News

Saturdays, 5:30-6:30 starting January 6th

To enroll, call 757-813-4371 or email
 shag@colonialshagclub.com

Lessons are progressive (i.e., each week builds on the prior week)

Club membership not required. Partner not required

Dance lesson plan for 2024

The dance instruction committee, co-chaired by Jerry Nichols and Dwayne Hardy, developed a new program for shag lessons at the Saturday night socials. The lessons begin on January 6th.

Beginner lessons, as advertised above, are followed by “Intermediate moves you can use” from 6:30 to 7pm.

Especially for the beginner lessons, those who are ‘beyond beginner’ are encouraged to attend so as to help ensure that each beginner has a partner and to give beginners the opportunity to dance with more-skilled partners.

The Colonial Crier is published monthly for Colonial Shag Club members. Editor: Lloyd Pitzen,
 newsletter@colonialshagclub.com

Shaggers @ Heart

shag workshop and dance weekend event
sponsored by Boogie on the Bay Shag Club

February 2-4, 2024

at Holiday Inn, Omni Blvd, Newport News
see event website boogieonthebay.com/shagheart

“Open door, open floor”

Two Left Feet Dance Studio (TLF) is open to members of any shag club every Monday evening (except on January 1st), starting at 8pm, to provide you with the opportunity to practice shag steps, learn something new, ask for help, help someone else, and just dance

Free, as a courtesy of TLF

What became of the club enhancement committee?

In 2023, the club enhancement committee was established to counteract the dwindling attendance at club socials after the Covid shutdown. This committee, in effect, was a tiger team, which gets in, performs the mission, and gets out. The committee came up with ideas for increasing participation in club events, implemented these as duties of committees, and then moved on. Examples of such implementation are a new dance lesson format and more advertising.

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.

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.

Colonial Shag Club

colonialshagclub.com

A Proud Member of



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

