

# Danville Shag Club



## July and August 2023

### MESSAGE PRESIDENT, JOHN GILSTRAP

Dear Shaggers and Shag Music Enthusiast,

The new shag club year has started and as of July a new board took office and has started planning events for the year.

Please get to know the new board and volunteer to serve on a committee. Below is a list of officers and committee chairs:

- President - John Gilstrap
- Vice President - Debbie Watlington
- Secretary - Janice Gilstrap
- Treasurer - Bill Hayden
- Ways and Means - Dennis Rutledge
- Telephone - Ernie Holcomb
- Membership - Ernie Holcomb
- Special Events - Cathy Rutledge
- Public Relations - Amy Bolen and Nora Eaton
- Historian - Bill Hayden
- Past President - Nora Eaton

On the next page, you will see a brief history of Shag. I stumbled across this in my files and through I would communicate the brief history of shag with all of you. I do not know the author but if I find out who wrote this, I will forward to you.

Enjoy and see you on the dance floor!

John

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### Officers of the Board

- President—John Gilstrap
- Vice President—  
Debbie Watlington
- Secretary—Janice Gilstrap
- Treasurer—Bill Hayden

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Amy Bolen—  
amyb32@gmail.com

## History of Shag

The foundation of shag was built in the late 1930 from variations of circle dancing called The Big Apple which found its way from a black night club in Columbia, S.C. to the lights of Broadway and likewise gained world renown. The shag coming on the heels of Jazz, Lindy Hop, Jitterbug, and the Big Apple still is one of the most popular dances in the Carolinas. The shag has survived, in a state of constant growth and change, for over 60 years. The dance has not only endured it has grown in popularity and became the state dance of SC.

How and when did the word shag become attached to the traditional fast dance of the Carolinas? No one really knows for sure. Almost everyone who performs the shag has a different story. We do know that the dance was copied from a Black night club in Columbia, SC and slowed down to what was then referred to as the Carolina Shuffle. We also know that the music they danced to was by Black artists and could not be heard on the radio because at that time, late 40's early 50's, they would not play black music on the radio. The kids would buy the music and put it on the juke boxes at the beaches in North and South Carolina. The term "shag" became popular in the early to mid-sixties and before that it was known as the "dirty shag". The girls had to sneak away from home to shag because their parents thought it was vulgar. In the old days, it was not cool to learn to shag in public. You stood rather sheepishly in the crowd and watched top dancers workout. You tried to mentally photograph their moves. Later you went home and danced with the doorknob to learn these steps.

Nostalgia for the shag took root in the early Seventies. Competitive dancing generated another growth spurt. The major growth occurred in 1980 when Gene Laughter from Richmond, VA. an old lifeguard from Ocean Drive, wanted to have a reunion for all those that worked during the summer at the beach in the fifties. He hoped for a couple of hundred to come to the beach for a weekend and a thousand showed up. This started 2 events per year known as SOS (Society of Strandlers). It has since grown to over 10,000 shagger per gathering and a third event was added called mid-winter which also attracts thousands in January. Also, about this time the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs was formed. Today SOS and ACSC list members from Cincinnati to St. Louis, San Diego to Memphis. It is estimated that over 800,000 people nationwide are familiar with the shag.

The dance is the smooth sliding of feet with emphasis on legs and knees with very little hip movement. Shaggers wear smooth bottom leather soled shoes so they can easily slide across the floor. Bass Weejuns are still the preferred shoe and usually worn without socks.

An unwritten code of shagging is no drinks or smoking on dance floor. A shagger will never refuse to dance with another shagger (this was started because in the beginning there was a shortage of female dancers, so everyone shared partners). Women nowadays have the right to ask men to dance and men are under an equal obligation to accept.

There is a Shagger's Hall of Fame composed of those that started the craze and those that kept the dance alive.

# A note from the Past President

Hello Everyone,

I want to take a minute and thank each of you for all the support you've given me the past 2 years. It was an effort coming out of COVID but with everyone's help we made it!

It's been a lot of fun and I know we will have more fun in the future.

Thanks again for making these last 2 years some of best times!

Keep your dance shoes close by!

Nora

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# Danville Special

## Dance Party

Thursday July 20, 2023

6:00pm to 9:00pm

Join us for a special party at a different location.

Welcome the 2023/2024 new board

\$5.00 donation

Markey Lounge

A Taste of Soul Bar & Lounge

Full Bar

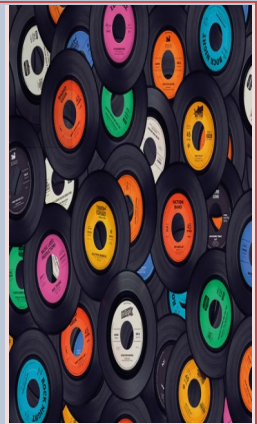
Full Menu

DJ George Dunn

2023/24

# BOARD MEMBER INFORMATION

| Position                     | Name              | Email                                                                          |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Officers of the Board</b> |                   |                                                                                |
| President                    | John Gilstrap     | <a href="mailto:gilstrapjb@gmail.com">gilstrapjb@gmail.com</a>                 |
| Vice President               | Debbie Watlington | <a href="mailto:dbwatlington@live.com">dbwatlington@live.com</a>               |
| Secretary                    | Janice Gilstrap   | <a href="mailto:gilstrap@comcast.net">gilstrap@comcast.net</a>                 |
| Treasurer                    | Bill Hayden       | <a href="mailto:b.hayden@chatmossable.com">b.hayden@chatmossable.com</a>       |
| <b>Committee Chairs</b>      |                   |                                                                                |
| Public Relations             | Amy Bolen         | <a href="mailto:amyb32@gmail.com">amyb32@gmail.com</a>                         |
| Co- Leader                   | Nora Eaton        | <a href="mailto:neaton56@gmail.com">neaton56@gmail.com</a>                     |
| Membership                   | Ernie Holcomb     | <a href="mailto:peholcomb@bellsouth.net">peholcomb@bellsouth.net</a>           |
| Nominations                  | TBD               | <u>TBD</u>                                                                     |
| Historian                    | Bill Hayden       | <a href="mailto:b.hayden@chatmossable.com">b.hayden@chatmossable.com</a>       |
| Special Events               | Cathy Rutledge    | <a href="mailto:cathyrdh74@gmail.com">cathyrdh74@gmail.com</a>                 |
| Telephone                    | Ernie Holcomb     | <a href="mailto:peholcomb@bellsouth.net">peholcomb@bellsouth.net</a>           |
| Ways and Means               | Dennis Rutledge   | <a href="mailto:drutledge@womackelectric.com">drutledge@womackelectric.com</a> |
| Past President               | Nora Eaton        | <a href="mailto:neaton56@gmail.com">neaton56@gmail.com</a>                     |



Danville Shag Club  
P.O. Box 10478  
Danville, Va. 24543  
[info@danvilleshag.com](mailto:info@danvilleshag.com)  
434-251-5574

*Where Friends Meet to Enjoy the Lifestyle, Music and Dance.*



**Like us on Facebook → Danville Shag Club**

**68**

**Members**

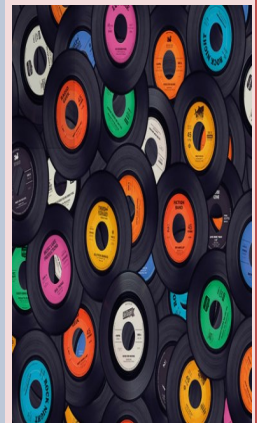
**As of**

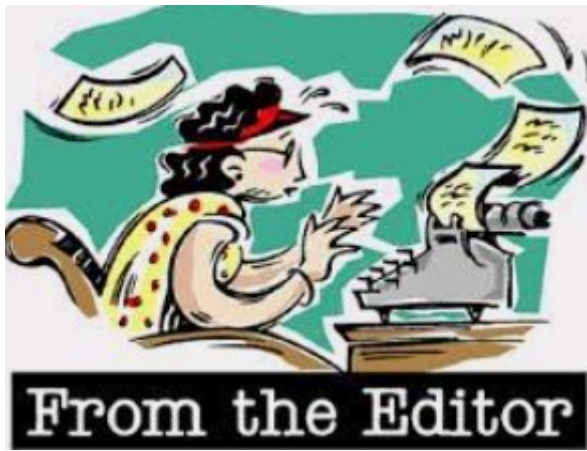
**Jul 10, 2023**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

| Date          | Day      | Place & Time                                      | DJ           |
|---------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| July 20th     | Thursday | Markey A Taste of Soul Lounge<br>6:00PM to 9:00PM | George Dunn  |
| August 3rd    | Thursday | 2 Witches<br>6:00PM to 9:00PM                     | Ricky Grubbs |
| September 7th | Thursday | 2 Witches<br>6:00PM to 9:00PM                     | Dane Joyce   |





**NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE  
IS  
AUGUST 20,  
2023**

Hi Danville Shag Club members!

I can't believe this year is half over. As of July 1st, a new board with new/different members are taking over the leading roles for our Shag Club. I am so excited to see the new things they will bring to our club. The first one is a new place and a special night to dance this month. Look at the dedicated page in this newsletter for more information. I've heard it's an awesome dance floor along with great food and drinks. I am so excited!

It truly takes a village to make this newsletter. Thank you to those that answer my unending questions and provide information. Without you, there'd be no newsletter.

I'm always looking for newsletter content! Please share any news you have with your fellow members. You may email me at [amyb32@gmail.com](mailto:amyb32@gmail.com).

**Deadline for September/October Newsletter is August 20, 2023.**

Keep those feet moving on the dance floor! Until next time.....

*Amy B.*

**WE NEED YOU!**

Send in your

articles,

prayers,

concerns,

recipes,

accolades,

celebrations, notes and

any pictures to

[amyb32@gmail.com](mailto:amyb32@gmail.com).

# Recipes!

Send in your favorite fall recipes to  
Amyb32@gmail.com

By looking at the recipes from John and Janice, we know who the COOK is in the Gilstrap house! Enjoy!

## **Bean Salad by Janice Gilstrap**

1 can French style green beans- drained

1 can English peas- drained

1 onion- chopped

1 bell pepper-chopped

2 stalks celery- chopped

1 medium size jar pimento

1 1/2 cups sugar

1 cup vinegar

1 teaspoon salt

Let stand overnight

I eliminated onion because Todd does not eat raw onion.

I used the 1 1/2 cups sugar because I tried it w/ only 1 cup and it was not sweet enough but I also think you could use some or all Splenda.

I used apple cider vinegar and if you like add 1 can drained chestnuts to make crunchy

## **Delicious Breakfast by John Gilstrap**

A simple and delicious breakfast I could eat every morning. Who am I kidding, I do eat most mornings.

Prepare by taking out of box and paper wrapping. Place in toaster. You may want to do both at same time. Push toaster handle down. Wait till they pop up and you have your breakfast ready.

**Pop Tarts** with coffee is great!!! Only recipe I know.



## JULY BIRTHDAYS

|                         |                |                          |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Bob Hamilton</b>     | <b>July 3</b>  | <b>Becky Hamlin</b>      | <b>July 20</b> |
| <b>Donna Pleasants</b>  | <b>July 3</b>  | <b>Darrell McMillian</b> | <b>July 25</b> |
| <b>Dorothy Hundley</b>  | <b>July 5</b>  | <b>Connie Rowland</b>    | <b>July 27</b> |
| <b>Carol McClanahan</b> | <b>July 7</b>  | <b>Betsye Gilley</b>     | <b>July 29</b> |
| <b>Kay Hughes</b>       | <b>July 18</b> | <b>Moquieta Beckner</b>  | <b>July 30</b> |
| <b>Doug Keaton</b>      | <b>July 19</b> |                          |                |



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

|                       |                  |                    |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>Janice Clayton</b> | <b>August 8</b>  | <b>Mack Doss</b>   | <b>August 18</b> |
| <b>Carrie Jones</b>   | <b>August 11</b> | <b>Matt Harris</b> | <b>August 29</b> |
| <b>Pam Patterson</b>  | <b>August 14</b> | <b>Amy Bolen</b>   | <b>August 31</b> |




## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

|                     |                     |                      |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Bill Hayden</b>  | <b>September 10</b> | <b>Jackie Farmer</b> | <b>September 13</b> |
| <b>Susan Wilson</b> | <b>September 11</b> | <b>George Dunn</b>   | <b>September 23</b> |



Contact Ernie Holcomb to verify or update your membership information.  
[peholcomb@bellsouth.net](mailto:peholcomb@bellsouth.net)





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# THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Please continue to pray for our members and their families

John Gilstrap recovering from knee surgery in June

Buck Kelly recovering from Open Heart Surgery in June.

Suzanne Moore recovering from surgery in July.

Jackie Farmer continue to recover from Rotator Cuff surgery.

Sandra Strader with her fight against cancer.

Amy Bolen's mother, Mary Collins who is fighting Stage 4 cancer.

Prayers for Ann Hayden's brother fighting cancer.



In Memory: Past President and long time member Tom Berkhead passed away.



Assn. of Carolina Shag Clubs



Society of Stranders



Beach Music



Danville Shag at Myrtle Bch



Fast Dancers

# 2023-2024 Re-up Party Photos

## June 17, 2023





2023-2024 Re-  
up Party Photos  
June 17, 2023 -  
Part 2



2023-2024 Re-  
up Party Photos  
June 17, 2023 -  
Part 3



# July Monthly Dance Photos





Our New VP Debbie—Dancing the night away



# First Thursday of July 2023 Monthly Dance Photos July 6, 2023



Danville Shag  
Club Members



It's Time to  
Renew your Membership!

For the Club year of:

July 1st, 2023 through June 30, 2024

\$15.00 to renew through the month of July 2023.

As of August 1st, the fee changes to \$20.00.

Membership form can be found on [danvilleshag.com](http://danvilleshag.com)

Mail to: Danville Shag Club

PO Box 10478

Danville, VA 24543

Questions & Changes to your contact information:

Contact Ernie Holcomb at [peholcomb@bellsouth.net](mailto:peholcomb@bellsouth.net) or (336) 613-2440



In the next issue we will be featuring an article on 'the Hudson Grandsons'.

The Grandsons of Doug and Margie, Hudson (fellow Shag Club members) are keeping the shag floor busy and are part of the Junior Shag Dance Team. Some of you may have danced with these fine young men. We are proud to know them and we'll be letting you know more about them and their accomplishments in the future newsletter.