



The Colonial Crier

newsletter of

Colonial Shag Club, Inc.

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

November 2024

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

President's corner

November brings us the holiday season, starting with Thanksgiving, which celebrates the harvest and other blessings of this year. There is so much to be thankful for this year that it would be difficult to mention all in this short note. Being a member our club for the past 23 years has been an absolute blessing for Camille and me. I recently thought about just how much shag dancing and the Colonial Shag Club has been a major part of our lives. I also think of the friends Camille and I have made, who we would have never known if it weren't for the dance and the Colonial Shag Club. Our shag friends are one of the greatest blessings to us.



I am truly thankful for all the members of the 2024 board of directors and for their support this year. We all started the year with the same goal — to do what is best for our club and its members. Our club members have also been very supportive this year, and for that we are truly thankful. We have had a free food event almost every month, and we are thankful to have been able to do this for our members. Many of you are probably unaware that some of our members have stepped up and funded some of the food events. This is how we were able to have these events so often. This month and every month of the year, we are thankful for all our many blessings.

We are also thankful for those members who have volunteered their time to serve on our committees and have volunteered to be dance instructors for our club. Last month, I mentioned the names of some of our instructors, and now I need to add the names of Cindy and Larry Black who were the instructors that are responsible for starting the Colonial Shag Club in 2001. I also want to recognize Judy and Bobby Chiles who have not only taught shag lessons for Colonial Shag Club, but also for Richmond Shag Club. Judy and Bobby also teach weekly shag dance lesson at three other venues in the Richmond area.

I am so very proud to remind you that Jerry and Lana Nichols will be inducted into the National Living Legends of Dance on November 9th. Jerry and Lana have been teaching dance lessons for over 40 years and are so very deserving of this very prestigious award.



**Wishing you and your family a very
Safe, Healthy, and
Happy Thanksgiving
Harry & Camille**



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 — 804-475-8439,
 judyharrischiles@gmail.com
Treasurer: Patty Swan — treasurer@colonialshagclub.com
Corresponding Secretary: Dwayne Hardy — 703-928-8328,
 jimmyacblues@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 — Patty Swan (chair), Mike Dyson, Dwayne Hardy, Jo Hardy, A.W. Jones
Social — Jo Hardy, Camille Walthall
Ways & Means (50/50 raffle)— Bobby Chiles

Ad hoc committees

Birthday cards — Bonnie Arms
Communications
Newsletter — Lloyd Pitzen
Newsy — Dwayne Hardy
Social media (Facebook, Instagram) — 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



- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 Jerry Hardy | 14 Nancy Crow |
| 7 Earl Hill | 15 Carol Puckett |
| 9 Catherine Taylor | 17 Mel Hemphill |
| 10 Jessie Johnson | 23 Bob McCreary |
| 10 Toby West | 29 Vicki Walker |
| 13 Bob Psimas | 30 Lisa Manley |
| 13 Connie Sledd | |

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 6-9pm at *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 *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

River City Shag Club social every Wednesday night at Tooley's Tavern at The Boathouse, Elizabeth City, North Carolina. See the club's Facebook page.

Colonial Shag Club



colonialshagclub.com



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LET OUR LIVES BE FULL OF BOTH Thanks & Giving



Meet the newly-elected board members for calendar year 2025

There will not be a voting process to elect board members. Instead, the nominees have been elected “by acclamation” being that there was only one nominee for each position (except for the vice president, which is explained below).

There was no nominee for vice president. In accordance with the bylaws, under such condition, the incumbent vice president (Bobby Chiles) shall continue to serve until someone succeeds him.

Connie Sledd — president

Colonial Shag Club

- Partnered with Boogie on the Bay Shag Club to collect dance shoes (45 pairs) and donations (\$450) for Junior Shaggers in memory of Carl Taylor*, 2024
- Director at large, 2020, 2022
- Corresponding secretary, 2017-2019
- President, 2010
- Vice president, 2009
- Second vice president, 2008
- (Acting) recording secretary, 2008
- Christmas party chair, 2017 -2019, 2022
- Christmas party planning committee , 2007-2009
- Participated in Guinness Book of World Records dance in North Myrtle Beach, 2011
- Assisted in planning the CSC 10th Anniversary weekend event

Work experience

- Poquoson School Board, 2004-2010
- New Horizons Regional Education Center Board of Trustees, 2005-2010

- English teacher, real estate broker, and substitute teacher

Volunteer experience

- Poquoson Education Foundation, Board of Trustees, 2011-2020
- PTA — local, district, and state offices
- General Federation of Woman’s Clubs — past president, district chair, and state bylaws committee
- Odyssey of the Mind — state judge, regional problem captain, and team coach
- Helped establish the Poquoson Animal Welfare Sanctuary (P.A.W.S.)



Patty Swan — treasurer

Colonial Shag Club

- Incumbent Treasurer
- Member since 2008

Education

- CNU and W&M
- ISM Certified Purchasing Manager, Lifetime

Work Experience

- Ball Corp 39 ½ years as employee and 3 ½ years as contractor in engineering and sourcing, project management, and training

Other volunteer experience

- Merrimac Dog Training Club (lifetime member) — many jobs over the years: trial secretary, treasurer (twice), budget committee, audit committee, bylaws committee, show volunteer

- Peninsula Piecemakers -- audit committee several times, block of the month committee, nominating committee
- Empty Bowls Virginia Peninsula — volunteer since the beginning, artist, bagmaker, volunteer coordinator, board member
- Peninsula Angel Quilters — volunteer and board member
- USA Dance Williamsburg — treasurer for three years, volunteer now



Note: * In Connie’s bio, “in memory of Carl Taylor” refers to Carl Taylor who passed away in June this year. An excerpt from his obituary is, “In lieu of flowers, the family requests that charitable donations in remembrance of Carl may be made to the Ellen Taylor Foundation for Junior Shaggers, ...” Carl and his wife, Ellen, have many shag dance honors including being inductees in the National Beach Shaggers Hall of Fame.

The collected shoes and money have been given to the Ellen Taylor Foundation for Junior Shaggers. The Foundation runs a program for providing gently-used dance shoes to Junior Shaggers and provides funding for shag workshops and funding for juniors to travel and participate in junior shag events.

Meet the newly-elected board members for calendar year 2025—continued

Craig Sinclair – recording secretary

Dance Experience

- 20+ years in East Coast Swing
- 6+ years in Shag
- 6+ years member of the Colonial Shag Club

Education

- BS in Engineering Mechanics at Michigan State University
- MS in Fluid Dynamics (Aerodynamics) at Johns Hopkins University

Work Experience

- Engineer at JHU Applied Physics Lab
- Software Engineer at Rockwell
- Systems Engineer and Director of Failure Tolerance Designs at NASA

- Senior Engineer at IBM
- VP of Criminal Justice Information Systems at SAIC
- VP of Technical Proposal Development at Serco



Dwayne Hardy – corresponding secretary

Colonial Shag Club

- Member since 2018
 - Corresponding secretary, 2024
 - Co-chair dance development committee, 2023-2024
 - Nominating committee, 2023-2024
 - Club enhancement committee, 2023
 - Social committee, 2023
 - Co-developed several CSC promotional videos
- Other: Member of Northern Virginia Shag Club, 2015-2017

Professional Career

Senior Systems Engineering consultant to DoD and other federal agencies on the application of systems engineering, open architecture, information technology, standards and advanced concepts in the development and acquisition of military and telecommunication systems.



Bonnie Arms — director at large

Colonial Shag Club

- Member since May 2022
- Handled the election process, 2023
- Membership committee, 2023-2024
- Birthday card committee, 2024

Virginia Beach Shag Club

- Member since May 2022
- Sold SOS cards, 2023-2024

Northern Virginia Shag Club (NVSC)

- Member since 1998 with a 5 ½ year break while living overseas
- President, 2018-2022
- Vice president, 2016-2017
- Secretary, 2014-2015
- Membership chair, 2014-2022
- Handled vendors for NVSC Classic events, 2015-2020

- Nomination committee member 3 years
- Handled the signing in at the front desk on dance nights; serviced the NVSC PO Box every week; sent out welcome letters to new members; sent out membership renewal letters to members; and notified the sunshine committee whenever someone had a death in the family, had an operation, was ill, etc.
- Shagger of the Year — 2014



Meet the newly-elected board members for calendar year 2025—continued

Janice J. Poteat (Jan) — director at large

Gary and I joined Colonial Shag Club in September 2023 and have thoroughly enjoyed being members, interacting with other members, taking shag lessons, and enjoying the many events that the club does throughout the year. We have taken lessons at Fat Harold's and at Yorktown and have always enjoyed the dance.

Work experience

- USAF, Langley AFB, VA, eight years
- Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, 30 years
- Presently, work part-time at Binns of Williamsburg

Education

- Graduated, Christopher Newport College, BSBA
- Graduated from Hampton Roads Business School
- Graduated from Brooklyn Casey High School Casey, SC

My work experience in retail and help with the small business surviving the many issues faced in the economy during the last nine years can help me add value to Colonial Shag Club. Small businesses and organizations have had to do things differently to survive, and I can help Colonial Shag Club move forward and grow into the club it can be.



David Puckett – director at large

- Has been a member of Colonial Shag Club since 2007
- Learned to shag dance from Cindy and Larry Black
- Was enlisted in US army for three years
- Participated in *Dancing with the Williamsburg Stars* synchronized shag dance team performance under direction of Cindy Black, March 2010
- Retired from Newport News Shipyard as a master shipbuilder pipefitter foreman after 51 years



Al Sledd — director at large

Colonial Shag Club

- Member since 2006
- Director at Large, 2020-2021

Other

- Past commodore of the Poquoson Yacht Club
- Past president of the former Coliseum Rotary Club
- Currently serving as a trustee for the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church
- Current member of the Poquoson Exchange Club
- Graduated from VMI in 1968 with a BS degree in civil engineering
- Owned a civil engineering and surveying firm for eleven years. Retired in 2011.
- Served four years in the U.S. Air Force; honorably discharged in 1972 at the rank of captain
- Hobbies include genealogy and shag dancing

