



## Virginia Beach Shag Club History

In the fall of 1984, Fran Bingley with the help of a dedicated group of dancers formed The **Tidewater Shag Club**. They met at the White Heron, on Laskin Road in Virginia Beach. The White Heron has since been replaced by beautiful condominiums. There were 1200 members in the club the first year. The original board members were Roger Arghyris, Fran Bingley, Cecil Fry, Marion Goodman, Martha Hoffman, Vickie Keller, George Lineberry, Bert Novotny, Kitty Novotny and Chuck Watters. George Lineberry financed the beginning of the Club, its charter and by-laws.

In July of 1986 Calamity's, located off First Colonial Road, became the home of The Tidewater Shag Club. Shagging took place from Wednesday to Sunday every week. In November of the same year Calamity's changed to Fat Rogers, owner, Roger Arghyris. In August of 1987 the Club became, **Dollar Bill Shag Club** when Bill Henry became the owner of Fat Rogers.

The Dollar Bill Shag Club dissolved in 1988, but immediately reorganized by 1989 to **The Virginia Beach Shag Club** and has continued as such through the years. The first *acting* President was Barbara Ambrose. Many assisted in re-establishing the shag club, creating by-laws and working committees. In November of 1989 Vicki Keller was elected the first president of The Virginia Beach Shag Club. In 1991 The Articles of Incorporation was filed and signed by Barbara Ambrose, Peggy Benson, Nancy Black, Gene Gorman, Diane Gregory, Terri Harris, Carolyn Jones, Vicki Keller, Diane Phillips, Robert Starnes, Kathy Sullivan, Jan Weakley and Larry Williams. In 1992 The Virginia Beach Shag Club, sponsored by The Richmond Shag Club, was accepted into the (ACSC) Association of Carolina Shag Clubs.

From 1990 to 2006 the Club held an annual "Beach Bash". The first one was at The Holiday Inn Executive Center. Attendance to these events often leaped to over 700 from people up and down the East Coast. Going forward many of the Beach Bashes were located at The Cavalier Hotel in Virginia Beach on Atlantic Avenue.

In February of 1993 The Virginia Beach Shag Club and The Richmond Shag Club co-hosted the first (ACSC) Association of Carolina Shag Clubs Workshop. The workshop was held at the Cavalier Hotel in Virginia Beach. To date the ACSC includes numerous shag clubs with an outstanding 17,000 members.

The Virginia Beach Shag Club is proud to have sponsored other shag clubs into ACSC; The Outer Banks Shag Club in Kitty Hawk, N.C.; Boogie on The Bay Shag Club in Portsmouth, VA and The Northern Virginia Shag Club in McLean, VA.

In 1995 the Club sponsored the first Junior Shag Club sponsored by Jan Weakley. Also in 1995 The Virginia Beach Shag Club was the proud recipient of the first ACSC "Shell Award" for "Best Party" and won again in 1996.

The VBSC is well known in the Community for efforts of its members. The club has given many dance exhibitions for civic clubs, churches, public schools, nursing and retirement centers. VBSC has also participated in many festivals, organized many food and special needs drives, and raised thousands of dollars for local charities.

The home of the Virginia Beach Shag Club has changed over the years for various reasons. Starting with White Heron, Calamity's, then Fat Rogers, Dollar Bill/Larkin's and Steppin Out (all of the underlined were changes in name but remained the same location). Other locations have been Country World, Upper Deck, Moose Lodge, Royal Courtyard, Marina Shores Yacht Club, and DanceSportVA, all located in Virginia Beach. The Banque in Norfolk was also another dance location.

The Virginia Beach Shag Club is proud to continue offering a great place to dance, in a beautiful environment, among many that enjoy Beach Music. We are inspired by the participation of our members and the positive attitude they represent.

Jackie Matthews, VBSC Secretary