



# Bobby Griffin 2008

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I learned to dance in 1955 at the age of 13. I really didn't like it but when I saw the fun in meeting and dancing with all the beautiful girls, I realized that the benefits surely outweighed the disadvantages. I didn't realize just how much learning to dance would have such an impact on my life. There was always a dance after the ball games, and on the weekends. I was lucky that my sister let me tag along and go with her to the big dances at the beaches and the hole-in-the wall juke joints. She would let me go with her and all of the older boys and girls to Atlantic Beach, Topsail Beach, and Carolina Beach. Every small town in eastern North Carolina would have some place to dance with a juke box, and as soon as we heard about them we would go.

The first time I went to Atlantic Beach and saw all those pretty girls in their shorts and dancing I realized I had found my place in life. I consider myself very lucky to grow up when I did. That is where I met such lifelong friends like Doug Perry, Shad Alberty, Spider Kennedy and many more.

The best thing that ever happened to me was at a small grill in Beulaville in 1960 when I met the love of my life and lifelong dancing partner, Kate. She loved to dance as much as I did and I was so fortunate that her mother would let her go to dances anytime. I went off to college and got an education, but my mind was on her most of the time. I would come home every weekend and we would go dance. When I graduated, we got married and moved to Raleigh and we went dancing with all of our dancing friends. Every weekend we went somewhere to dance.

The first contest in Eastern N.C. was in 1973 at the Jolly Knave at Atlantic Beach, and then the competitions really began. Kate and I competed until early 1980's and then stayed home with our daughter Holly. She became the center of our life, but we continued dancing whenever we could find a babysitter. As soon as Holly was old enough to get into the clubs we would take her because we wanted her to enjoy the wonderful friends and the joy of dancing. We wanted her to dance because we knew that if she ever started she would never quit. She met her lifelong dancing partner and the love of her life on the Duck's dance floor and I am so proud of her and Jason Cagle for the joy they have given us by watching them and seeing them enjoy the dance.

I hope everyone will keep on dancing and loving it as much as I have.