



# Jack Rickard

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I was born in Winston-Salem, NC, and grew up on a farm in Middle Fork Township just east of Winston-Salem. In July of 1947 I met this "cat" from Fayetteville, NC, he had been to Carolina Beach, and I also had a friend who was working there. They talked me into hitchhiking to the beach. I had never been on a dance floor but when I saw people doing the "fast dance", I loved it. A native Carolina Beach girl named Alice taught me to dance and after that I couldn't wait to get out on the floor at Batson's Jump Joint and Sugar Bowl 1 and 2. I spent the summer of 1947, 1948, 1949 and 1950 at Carolina Beach. I worked at Patterson's French fry stand and his bar. I occasionally fed friends who were hungry and broke. One of these was Mimi Benedict. I was influenced at that time by some of the best dancers I have ever seen. Among them were Harry Driver, Bobby Hammond and Jenks Barfield. I was introduced to Chick Hedrick by a friend of mine from Winston-Salem named Meatball Kimel.

In 1950 I joined the Navy and was away for four years. In 1955 I met my future wife, Barbara, at the pavilion at Myrtle Beach and we were married in 1957. I then entered N. C. State and graduated in 1961. We moved to Clemmons, NC, and were so involved in raising our family that we rarely had occasion to dance. I missed it so much that when a shag joint called the Polo Club opened in Winston-Salem I couldn't wait to get there. Susie Beaver was giving shag lessons and when I danced with her, she informed me I was dancing on the girl's foot. She got me out of that in a hurry. Barbara and I went from there to other dance clubs in Winston-Salem and eventually on to the beach for SOS. I ran into Harry Driver and Chick Hedrick one night at Cagney's Old Place. I hadn't seen them in 30 or 35 years. Harry told me about two new organizations that were about to begin - ShagAttack and Our Time. We joined both and I was able to renew some old acquaintances from Carolina Beach. I enjoy visiting with them and the new friends I have made over the years whenever I get down to the beach, which is not as often as I would like since we live 200 miles away.

Barbara and I have been married for fifty years. We still live in Clemmons, NC and have two children and two grandchildren who live nearby.

I will always love the beach and the music and I am very proud to have been chosen to be in the "Shaggers Hall of Fame"