

Richard M. "Cooter" Douglas

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My first times at the beach were with my parents and I even have a picture in front of the Roberts Pavilion in 1953. I remember my daddy putting me on his shoulders so I could watch Eddie Page dance. My first time to the beach without my parents, was with friends from Harry P. Harding High School (Charlotte, N. C.). They were the ones that led me astray. Mike Bumgarner, Ted Mitchell (he nicknamed me Cooter), Jimmy Cherry, and Jelly Belly Polk got me into the riot in OD in 1967. My first cousin Pat Earnhardt Little taught me how to dance but on the girls step. I generally went 1,2,3, pivot, asked 'em to go to the car and if they didn't I would try another one.

Like most folks my age I started working and having kids, then ran into Dennis Sides around 1975 at The Boardwalk in Greenville, S. C. and we have been running together ever since. I bartended at the original Sand Flea beer joint in Greenville, S. C. (where the Hall of Fame started) for the one eyed fat man Rick Hubbard. Maybe the greatest beer joint ever! This is where I met most of the old timers. I use to drink back then and they kinda stayed away from me, but after I quit drinking I made many lasting friendships with these people. Dennis and I went to just about ever shag party there was for twenty years and met many wonderful people and a few that were not all that wonderful. My 13-count basic is nearly legendary, just ask Marilyn Haithcock Burrage.

I moved to the beach in 1994 and started working at Ducks Beer Joint in 1996 with Norfleet Jones and Bob Baker, and had a great time as an older (but handsome, ha-ha) bartender. Over the years I have bartended at all the clubs except the O. D. Arcade and have enjoyed most of the people I have met. At the moment I am the assistant weed eater for the City of North Myrtle Beach and do stand-up comedy at The Comedy Cabana and The House of Blues. My friends Pete and Sharon Reynolds have always stood by me drunk or sober and we have been to many shagging events drunk and sober. Life has been very good to me and I enjoy the beach and playing golf. To me the greatest shag song ever is Solomon Burkes' "Cry to Me".

I have been blessed with two children, Michael and Lori, and they have given me two grand kids, Audrey and Parker. I am humbled to be selected as an Honorary Member of The Shaggers Hall of Fame.