



LINDA L. REEDER - 2016

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I was born and raised in Greensboro, NC and grew up in a family that loved music and dancing. Before I was born, my parents won a few jitterbug contests and they continued to go to dances throughout my school years.

During junior high and high school, there were always parties at some teen clubs or someone's house. In high school, the event we looked forward to was Mother's Day weekend where we all wanted to go to OD even if it meant I had to take my parents with me.

In the middle 60's, I went to East Carolina and began seeing the "basic" danced to great music at various clubs. After college, I moved to Charlotte and went to the original Groucho's. I judged a contest one time where I was the only female with a group of guys by the first names of Shad, Lacy, Kim and Buzz. In the late 70's, I moved back to Greensboro to be near my family where I began going to The Bushes and loved every minute of it. I went to the second SOS in 1981 and thought this was the ultimate party at the beach. I have so many memories of going to Fat Jack's, Harold's Across the Street, The Pad and Ducks. I was in awe watching some of the great dancers like Ellen Taylor, Sandra Schwartz, Lynda Carole Flynn and JoAnne Johnson.

In October, 1992, Thurston and I, along with Buzz & Dana Sawyer, opened "Thirsty's" in my parent's old warehouse. It was small but had a lot of character. After a few years, I also opened the R&B Record Shoppe which adjoined the club. Where else could you go to a beach club, hear a song the DJ played, go into the record shop, buy the record or cd and drink an alcoholic beverage the entire time!

We closed the first Thirsty's in 1999 and three years later, Thurston and I opened Thirsty's 2. Over the past 14 years, the club has held many contests and charity events, the biggest benefactors being the Beth Mitchell Scholarship Fund and the Hall of Fame Foundation. The best part of owning a club is meeting people with the same love of the music and dance, some of which have become wonderful lifetime friends like Vivian, Phil and Betsy, Jim and Peggy, Max and Helen and many more that I don't have enough room to write their names. My greatest achievement in life is my daughter, Lindsey (who married my wonderful son-in-law Derek), my two grandchildren, Mason and Arden and step grandchildren, Megan and Ethan. I married Thurston in 1991 and he has been the best thing that ever happened to me.

I am truly honored to be a member of the Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame and to share my love of our lifestyle with so many special people.