



CHIP BRANTLEY - 2016

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I grew up in Charlotte and started dancing when I was about 12. Hammy McGarity and I used to practice our “Myrtle Beach Basic” while on our safety patrol post. I really started dancing at about 17 with a fake ID. I danced at The Pad and Sonny’s Pavilion at the beach. In Charlotte: The B&G Trading Post, The Cellar, The Box, The Pour House and more. On Monday’s, we might go to the Bitter End in Winston-Salem and on Thursday’s to Castaway’s in Greensboro.

I had a lot of mentors: Don Reid, Harry Driver, Buzz Sawyer, Mike Osborne, Tommy White and many more. They always had time to teach. Back in the 60’s I had some really good dance partners: Pam Hinson, Vickie Warden, Shelia Deaton McGarity, Jeanie Blizzard, Cindy “Slim” Mangum, Judy Kilpatrick and many more.

I didn’t get to dance much from 1968 to 1970 because of Vietnam. We moved to Fayetteville in 1970 and had a child in 1971. I didn’t get back into the dance scene until the late 1970’s when we met O.B. and Judy Knowles and haven’t stopped.

The best thing about this dance and the music is the people. You can go anywhere in NC and SC and have friends there.

Thank you for this award.