



RANDELL E. "RANDY" ROWLAND

2016

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July 4th week of 1959 was my first visit to Cherry Grove Beach. In just a couple of days, Sonny's Pavilion became my favorite spot. While other 10 year olds were playing Skee Ball, I was stuffing nickels and dimes into the Jukebox; falling in love with the music of the Drifters, Flamingos, Fiestas, Jackie Wilson, Sammy Turner, and Lloyd Price. After dark, during adult beverage hours, we would sneak up to the dance floor's edge on the beach side, standing on our tiptoes to watch the Fast Dancers and Jitterbuggers. So impressed, and a life changing even. My sister and her girlfriends could do a pretty good basic step, so I mimicked her, even dancing with her occasionally, then to the doorknob.

Teenage years brought trips to the Grand Strand with cousins, aunts, uncles and family friends that would put up with me. Attending sock hops at the Grace Park Recreation Center in Statesville kept me abreast of the music, and opportunities to dance. High school years brought us dances with the Catalinas, Embers, Bob Collins and the Fabulous Five, and trips to our local haunt, "George's Place", as we reached the legal age. George's had the best jukebox of its time, and a great hardwood dance floor.

As young adults, it was off to OD every chance that we could, hanging out at all the hot spots, like The Barrel, The Beach Party, later Fat Jack's, Spanish Galleon, The Pad, OD Pavilion, Sonny's and the Forks. Inland we visited the Cellar, Pour House, Paul's Lounge, The B and G, the Castaways, Fiesta, Jolly Knave and more. Road trips to Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh, and Columbia continued all through my 20's and 30's.

Over the years, I have been fortunate enough to meet some of the shagging greats, whom are all now dear friends. Names like Buzz Sawyer, Shad Alberty, Kim Maynard, Richard Abney, Mike Osborne, Earl McGillicuddy and Norfleet Jones to name a few. And of course the females; Cindy Mangum, Judy Tucker, Brenda Alberty, Glenda Johnson and Later, Sandra Schwartz and Joanne Johnson.

As owner of Groucho's Beach Club in Charlotte, the pleasure of meeting hundreds of shaggers continued as we entertained shag contests twice a year for over 12 years. Names like Womble, McGhee, Teal Jernigan, Smith, Pace, Squires and more come to mind. The lifestyle, the dance, collecting music for over 50 years, and enjoying the comradely of this community has been both loads of fun and very enriching.

I am honored and overwhelmed for your consideration, and induction into the Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame. I would like to thank the Board of Directors, voting members and the entire shagging family and community for bestowing this honor.