



Brenda (Pace) Gray

Brenda (Pace) Gray

As a young girl, I would twist and spin – pretending I could dance. At 18 years of age, I walked into my first beer joint and had my first adult beverage. I noticed men standing by the dance floor watching the college kids shag. Needless to say, I was hooked and my pursuit began!

Fast forward to age 26. I met a young man who took me under his wings, teaching me the finer points of shag. We traveled, competed, taught dancing, and were a part of developing SPA. That young man was Mike Pace.

We traveled across the Carolinas with Shad and Brenda Alberty, Charles and Betty Jean Jernigan, and Charles and Kathy Jane Gurley. Needless to say, there are lots of stories that could be told about those trips; but for now, I'll just say we had a great time!

We danced with the best of the best to include those couples and more. A couple of other folks that stand out are Glenn Dabbs, Ronnie Duggins, Cadillac Jack and Connie Smith. Clubs that we had more fun than was legal included Bogie's, The Mirage, Tramps, Groucho's, The Bushes, Red's, Polo's, and Fat Jack's. We won some, lost some, but always walked away with a great time had by everyone there.

Over the years, I was fortunate to co-teach along the side of many great male dancers and instructors and in many locations. But, Fat Boys in Rockingham will always hold a special place in my heart because of the juniors we were able to influence. Now those juniors are parents and have kids who dance. I eventually ventured on my own to share my knowledge and the love of this dance.

To this very day, I love the dance, the music, the atmosphere, and the people I have met over my lifetime. Memories never die! My happy place is on the dance floor.

I am both honored and humbled to be standing in the midst of so many great dancers. My induction into the Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame means so much to me.

Thank you to all who helped me along my journey.