



CATHY STEWART WILLIAMS

CATHY STEWART WILLIAMS

I would like to say that my dance career started at the OD Pavilion or at Williams Lake near Dunn, NC. But my parents had been to both, so the answer was NOT A CHANCE. When they said NO, there was no more discussion.

When AC and I married, we decided to find something to do together in addition to raising 3 sons. Looking back, I don't know where we found the time. THOSE BOYS!

Don Bunn allowed us into his group class in Fayetteville, NC. We enjoyed the students and looked forward to Monday nights at Club Flaherty's. Then SPA/CSA contest came to town. Excited to see what it was all about, I put on my short denim skirt and flip flops to watch the contest. Amateur Division was up first but there were not enough couples to sanction the event. You cannot imagine the pressure we had to dance. Don Bunn was so desperate to get us to dance and sanction the contest, he offered to pay our entry fee. After nearly 2 hours, we relented and did our best, knowing only 3 moves, and me trying to keep my skirt down and flip flops on. With ALL due respect to our military, I'm sure I had a mild to moderate case of PTSD. Kinda feels like that now. But that was nothing compared to the feeling after learning we had to dance again on Sunday! Immediately, I began plotting a case of the flu plus mono plus pink eye. But AC..another story. He was a GONER.

The next twenty years flew by with competitions, win some/lose some, teaching group class in Fayetteville, judging and holding workshops (our prize student being non other than our own Max Madrin). But the most important part of those years were the friendships made along the way. Fayetteville friends Eddie and Kathryn Monsour and Chris and Angela Jestes were always willing to pitch in and help a weekly dance class.

Contest friends always cheering and encouraging each other, and those late-night breakfasts! The Popes and Joyce's, I'm sure you remember THE MAGIC PAN in Morehead City. Party of 20 please, 1 hostess who was also the waitress and the cook. Gene poured coffee, we all set the table and left big tips. SPECIAL MEMORIES!

And of course, Ned and Sandy Gregory. Can't imagine not meeting you, and all because of this dance. We have shagged at the Roman Coliseum, the Parthenon in Athens, Central Park and all the clubs and contests in between. We should write a book.

So, to all our friends wherever we met, I would like to extend a sincere hand of gratitude. You have all made life more interesting, more fun, and vastly more entertaining.

AC, thank you for pushing and insisting and never letting up on practicing and competing and even arguing. I love you.

So, friends and family and the Board of Directors of Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame, I humbly and sincerely thank you for this honor.