



RODNEY WILLIAMS

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I was born and raised in the small town of Graniteville, South Carolina. It was there I learned to fast dance at the age of 12 in the summer of 1957 at the Gregg Park Civic Center. The teenagers would dance on summer afternoons and I was eager to learn the steps. After several days of watching, I asked one of the girls to dance and a small crowd surrounded us to watch and I was totally and completely hooked! From that point on I became known for dancing and all through High School danced at Teen Towns and Sock Hops in the area. Also an hour event called the Top Ten Dance Party was televised on WJBF TV and I danced there many Saturday mornings and eventually won the yearly Dance Contest. During my college days I would go to Folly Beach Pier, Isle of Palm Pavilion and Juke Joints and Bars in and around Columbia. After college I married my first wife Connie and we would attend local Rock and Roll Shows and many other venues to dance. In the seventies I would travel to Ocean Drive from Myrtle Beach to dance at The Pad and Fat Jacks.

I attended my first SOS in 1983 and have not missed a one since. The passion and love of the dance was astonishing to me. These "old folks" had more energy and determination than I had ever seen for a dance. When I returned home, I joined the Columbia Shag Club and started taking shag lessons from Norman and Wanda Holiday. Well the first thing learned was I had been dancing on the Woman's step for twenty-five years! That took a lot of practice and help from many of the shag club women such as Ellen Taylor, Marie Taylor, Marilyn Burrage and many more and my male steps finally improved. I then went to Beaus, St Nicks, Fannys and Butch's Beach Club often. At that point I started traveling to Charlotte, Atlanta, Greensboro, Rock Hill and Ocean Drive on most weekends to Shag Dance.

With the help of several others, I started the CSRA (Central Savannah River Area) Shag Club in 1985 and the club quickly grew from 50 to over 500 members. While teaching one of my early shag classes, I met my wife Laura and we were married in 1990. After transferring to Chattanooga, we helped start the Choo Choo Shag Club in 1997. During the past 35 years, we taught Shag lessons for over 30 years in Augusta Ga, Columbia SC, and Chattanooga Tn. We danced at the Olympics in Atlanta and promoted Shag Dance in interviews and TV spots as well as Dance Exhibitions.

Shag dancing has been a major part of my life for over 40 years and I cannot express my joy in dancing and meeting so many great friends as a result of it. Being inducted in The Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame is one of the most treasured moments of my life. I am honored and proud to be a part of this great and wonderful group of people!