



# Joanne Johnson 1985

## JOANNE JOHNSON

Born and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina. Divorced, mother of four sons - none of whom dance, but all play some type of music.

My first memories of dancing were in the seventh grade. That was when I won my first "jitterbug" contest. I guess the dance bug bit me then. I danced at the Municipal swimming pool, Hawthorne Center in Charlotte, and Folly Beach, South Carolina and anywhere else we could find a jukebox. There was a record store on West Trade Street that carried the "black" music that became the center of our dance.

After I got married and started having children, my husband and I would take the children to Windy Hill, Ocean Drive Beach every year on vacation and dance at the pavilion. We were always quartered out from giving the kids money for the machines so they could play while we danced. Of course, there was always week-ends at Ferenians Hall in Charlotte. When there are four small children, it was sometimes hard to get babysitters each and every weekend.

The years went by and my husband and I separated. In 1973, Groucho's Beach Club opened in Charlotte. I think I was the first one over there. I entered many contests there and other places - won some, lost some.

In 1979, I was asked to start playing for the Steak and Ale in Charlotte for "Beach Nite", Monday night each week. It's now 1995 and still going strong. People from all areas are at the S&A every week.

My music and my dancing occupy a great deal of my time as all of my children are now grown and married or engaged. I can only hope that I am fortunate enough to keep all the people I have met through the years as friends while dancing or playing music.

I also am very fortunate to have been chosen one of the people to be inducted into the S.H.O.F. and the DJ HOF.

Keep on Dancin'.