



Lee Roberts

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I was born on June 17, 1947 in Raleigh, North Carolina, where I've lived my entire life! In 1972 I began working for the Norfolk Southern Railroad; in 2007 I retired with 35 years of service.

Growing up, our family vacations evolved around going to Ocean Drive, South Carolina to visit my Aunt Bertha & Uncle Tom. While the adults talked, I'd go over to Roberts Pavilion and listen to the music and watch the couples on the dance floor. This was my first glance at what would later become my passion...fast dancin' and, of course, the music!

When I was around 12 yrs. old, Ann Kennedy and Pat Jones taught me how to "fast dance" or "beach bop", as it was called back then. On weekends you could find me at the YWCA, Teen-age Frolics, Jim Thornton's or Pullen Park, watching great dancers such as John Teel, Henry Murray, Johnny Poole, and Allen Hicks. I was in awe of their moves and steps on the dance floor, so I tried to emulate them. I'd practice every chance I got-eventually I developed my own style.

In the mid 60's & 70's, The Cat's Eye, Williams Lake, Ocean Plaza, The Jolly Knave, Castaways and The Bushes, to name a few, became my practice floors! The music, the dancers and the atmosphere was intoxicating.

The 80's thru the 90's brought many life changing experiences for me. First, I met and married my soul mate and dance partner for life- Miss Baby. Secondly, in 1989 God put up a few road signs for me to contemplate. This caused me to re-evaluate my life, my lifestyle and my priorities. After a few years of reflection, we started listening to the music again, and then going back out to the clubs to dance the dance we enjoyed..the Shag. Loafer's, The Pavilion, The Pad, Ducks, Pirates Cove, and so many other great clubs provided the dance floors.

From the beginning to the present day, my love for the music, the dance and the whole Shag community has never faltered... I LOVE IT! It has allowed me to share dance floors with not only great dancers, but with some of the finest people you'd ever want to meet. And if the good Lords willing, I will continue to enjoy this lifestyle and the dance, the Shag, for a long time to come!

This has been a humbling experience for me and I am honored to have been selected into the *Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame*. I wish to thank the Board and all who voted for me! Thank you all very much!