



Claude Robertson

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- Born in Lancaster, SC on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 1942 (mother was expecting turkey and she got one!)
- As a teenager, I discovered that girls like boys that could dance, so I learned to shag when I was 13 at the Lancaster Community Center. I learned by watching and then going home and practicing with a door knob or the refrigerator handle. The first person I ever danced with was Tina Stewart, the chaperon of the Community Center. I was terrified, but no one laughed too much, so my shagging years began!
- I started going to the beach in high school and college whenever I could- usually went to the Pad, but also went to the Pavilion on occasion.
- I graduated from Clemson in Civil Engineering and moved to Washington, DC; then Hawaii; then Puerto Rico; then Meridian, Mississippi; then Panama City, Florida; then Columbia, Missouri then Jacksonville, Florida; the Charlotte, NC; and finally Charleston, SC- and believe it or not, I actually shagged socially in all these places.
- In 1980(I think it was), I heard on the radio about a shag contest at a new club in Charleston called the Mirage and decided to check it out. I saw people there that I hadn't seen in years, met new people and was thoroughly impressed with the level of dancing and wanted to learn more.
- I had danced for 25 years without knowing that the basic involved 6 beats of music, or that the guy started on the left foot. After some lessons from Linda Walker, I learned to count (didn't know there was one before then!) and finally realized what my feet had been doing for years. I also took from Mike Pace, Shad and Brenda Alberty, and got help from numerous others including Norman and Wanda Holiday, Roger and Peggy Burris, Norfleet Jones, and Charlie and Jackie.
- My former wife, Gale, and I competed on the SPA/CSA circuit from 1981 to 1993.
- Served as Dancer's SPA Representative (Prior to the forming of the CSA) for one year.
- Was a Founding Member of the CSA Board.
- Have been a member of Charleston Shag Club since its inception in 1981, served one year as VP, and was involved in Geechee Blast for many years.
- Am also a member of East Cooper Shag Club, Mountain Empire Shag Society in Johnson City, Tenn, and Sandy Beach Shag Club in Morganton, N.C.
- Shag instructor @ J.B. Pivots from 1986-1992, currently volunteer for club associated demonstrations, lessons, and still teach private lessons (several years ago taught Days of Our Lives, Deidre Hall, the belly roll!). While visiting in Prague Czech Republic, I taught fourth graders the South Carolina State Dance; however, I was specifically instructed by the school principal not to use the word "Shag!"

The shag has been an integral part of my life since childhood, I love the dance, it is my passion, and I will always continue to support, to promote and to enjoy the shag. Thank you to everyone who made my selection into the BSNHOF possible. It is truly an honor 1&2, 3&4, 5,6