



# Larry Peter Hales - 2018

## LARRY PETER HALES

I was born November 22, 1954 in Durham, NC where I attended Durham High School until graduation in 1973. My first introduction to North Myrtle Beach and shagging happened in 1974 when I visited the "PAD" to play some pool. As I walked around the room, I noticed the walls covered in pictures and signatures of people dancing and partying. This aroused my curiosity in this dance and would forever be etched in my mind.

Ten more years would pass until my next exposure to this dance when I visited a beach club in Raleigh, NC. There I saw this dance live and never had I seen so many people smiling and having the time of their lives shagging the night away. This encouraged me to sign up for shag lessons from instructor Wes May in 1985. My desire to become more involved in this dance grew day by day. More lessons and countless friendships would continue along the way.

Thankfully this rewarded me the privilege of meeting the girl of my dreams, Bonnie, who also shared the same love of the dance as much as I. We were married in November 1986, and continued to attend SOS and various beach clubs as shagging became an integral party of our lives.

As we became more involved, the competitive side of this dance began to emerge. This would lead us to Loafers Beach Club where we received help from John and Pee Wee Teel, Danny Johnson, Wes May and numerous others. We learned to appreciate the music as well and were influenced by Gary Gibson and Charles Gurley.

In 1997, we purchased our second home in North Myrtle Beach, SC. Retirement after 32 years of service with Liggett Group enables us to spend more time at the beach. The visits to the area beach clubs and walks on the beach with Connie Bridges fill our lives immensely. Never would I have envisioned back in 1974 that this dance would bring me so much joy and happiness.

Special thanks to the Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame Board and to those that have bestowed this honor on me. It is overwhelming to be included with my fellow 2018 inductees. I will cherish this forever and continue to share the love of this dance and music with everyone I encounter.