



Stacy Shaw - 2018

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In the late 70's, my work took me to Charleston, S.C. There I met Gale and Claude Robertson. They led me to my first shag contest where I watched Babs Grant dance and I was mesmerized. In the early 80's, I transferred to Wilmington, N.C. There I took shag lessons from Judy Duke and because I "could dance" I was introduced to my wife. We were both single and the shag was something we had in common.

About 35 years ago, JoAn and I danced in the first amateur shag contest at Fat Boy's in Rockingham, NC. After that we were hooked. We continued to dance every weekend that there was a contest. We danced many years as amateurs, then novice and finally pro. In the quest to "get better" we took lessons from Jeppy McDowell, Michael Norris and Charlie and Jackie.

We danced in the National Shag Dance Championship many years, even finishing in the top eight one time. We were awarded the first Spirit of Shag Award. This later became the Beth Mitchell award. We danced in the first through the nineteenth Grand National Shag Championships. In 1996, we traveled to California, with Judy Eastwood, Wanda Yow, Charlie and Jackie and a group of "young guns" to dance in the U.S. Open Swing competition. This was the first Shag Division in this competition. We joined CSA at its inception and served on the Board of Directors in 2001 – 2002. Many hours were spent discussing ways to promote and preserve our dance. In 2014, we were inducted in the Sand Flea Living Legends. This was an honor and a chance to reconnect with old friends.

We taught shag for 20 years, starting out assisting Judy Duke. We have taught in churches, community centers and "juke joints". Between teaching and participating in contests and events like SOS, we have made many lasting friendships; including dancers, djs, bar tenders, and club owners. My love for the music, the dance and the life style has kept us in clubs in North and South Carolina most weekends for the past 30 years. Those friends are now like family.

My greatest honor in shag is being inducted as an honorary member of the Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame. I am forever humbled and grateful.