



Mike Pace 1995

MIKE PACE

Being born in the Forties, my mother put me down for my naps to Big Band Music.

Through the Fifties, I traveled to NCO Clubs with my parents and listened to the music of the day. I used to sit and watch my mother and father do the jitterbug and swing. In the process, I learned the basic step of the day.

In the Sixties, I discovered Atlantic Beach, NC and I was off and running. I caught on to the beach hop (fast dance), later to discover that this dance was also called the Shag. Thinking I was a good dancer, I happened to run into four guys who made me realize that I did not know anything about this dance. These four, Roger "Spider" Kirkman, Shad Alberty, Doug Perry and Jo Jo Putnam (when sober enough), made me take notice of what I really needed to learn.

I watched and stole everything possible, but discovered that watching and theft would not get me where I wanted to be.

I now feel the need to give credit to the person who gave me the tools to become the dancer I am today. Roger "Spider" Kirkman is the Master Of Shag. I now have an understanding of what he was trying to accomplish with the stumble bum he took in and tried to make a dancer. Roger, thank you for all your help, patience and especially the friendship that you have shown!

Without the Shag I would not have met the people or traveled to the places I have been. The friendships have been lasting and true.

To the Hall of Fame board and voters, I thank you and hope that I can live up to the the honor that you have bestowed upon this old country boy.