



Nick Columbus - 2015

NICK COLUMBUS

I was born and raised in Mt.Olive, N.C. I graduated from Southern Wayne High School in 1972. During my junior and senior years I often visited beach clubs like the Embers Club in Raleigh and later in Atlantic Beach, N.C., Jolly Knave and Lake Artesia in Faison, N.C. I didn't really know anything about the Shag, other than I had a Shag haircut! I mainly went to these places at the time to party and find girls.

After graduation from high school I attended Coastal Carolina Community College in Jacksonville N.C. It was during this time on one of my visits home and to Lake Artesia I met my wife Terry Kennedy. We dated for about 6 months and were married in 1974. She grew up shagging and so I pretty much knew this was in my future. We moved to New London, N.C. where I started my career at Stanley Memorial Hospital. We didn't start shagging right off. We actually did the disco scene a little while. We did find a joint called John's Place just outside of New London where they played a little beach music. This actually might be where the seeds of shagging were planted.

We moved to Greensboro, N.C. in 1980 and found the Bushes Beach Club and the shag journey began. We started dancing a lot and danced on the Shag Circuit for a few years. We met a lot of great dancers and made many friends. In addition to dancing I started playing music at a club called Bananas and later at my own club which I owned with the late Dave Moore, called the Nickelodeon. Sometimes I helped Terry teach shag lessons. This, of course, was after she taught me! Yes, she was my main teacher and inspiration. In 1984 my career took us to Atlanta, Georgia. We didn't dance much anymore competitively but found some places to dance and enjoy the music. One of our first stops was Chicks place on Buford Hwy where we met Chick Hedrick. He and everyone we met made us feel as though we had been there all of our lives. Over the next several years we made many friends in the Shag world in and around Atlanta and North and South Carolina. Traveled when we could to North Myrtle Beach to the clubs and to Greenville, S.C. where we often went to The Sand Flea Beach Club. We made many trips for Shag and Line Dance contests there. Most of the time Terry or I judged the contest but we participated in the Line Dance competitions. Yes, I did Line Dance costumes and all! It was a great time and memory.

In 1996 we moved back home to be near our families. We currently reside in Goldsboro N.C. where upon moving home I started my own business which I still operate today. We are closer to NMB now and go a little more often. The Shag family of friends is something special and I'll cherish these memories made and those yet to be made long after the dancing ends.

I am honored to be a member of the Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame and wish to thank everyone who made this possible.