



Debbie Pace - 2017

DEBBIE PACE

Thank you for stopping by to read my bio! First of all, I'd like to say what an honor it is to be on this wall with so many awesome people. Not only are they the best dancers ever, they have lifted me up and been the truest of friends. I am truly humbled to be considered worthy of belonging to the Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame.

Unlike many up here, I did not grow up at the beach. I visited the beach occasionally and first saw the "bop" at the Embers Club when I was in high school. I lived in Raleigh most of my life, got married and had two wonderful children. Circumstances changed in the early 80's and I took my first shag lesson at Red's Beach Club in Raleigh. Let me give credit where it is due to my instructors, Wes May, Madeline May, Patti Myers Strickland and Sally DeLoach. From the first night I was in love with the dance and couldn't get enough. You made it so much fun! Beginner lessons, intermediate then on to the advanced classes. I started dating and dancing with one of the helpers from our classes, Ken Earnhardt. We started dancing competition on the SPA circuit and traveled on weekends to clubs all across North and South Carolina. It was at these contests that I saw the greatest dancers move to the rhythm of the blues. Ken and I taught shag classes for several years with Cary Parks and Recreation. We met so many dancers and made many new friends with whom I am still friends with today. Again, circumstances changed. My job moved me and I was out of touch with the shag world for many years.

How could I possibly have known that while out shagging the night away in my early 30's, I had met my future husband? Sure enough! Through social media, he found me 25 years later on my original dance instructor's Facebook page. The romance with the dance started all over again. It was like I had never left. We fell in love and were married a year and a half later. We have taught many basic workshops together and made more friends over the east coast. When we visit the beach, we are greeted with the words "Welcome Home".

My life is so blessed and full of love today, all because God gave me a life partner who loves the music and the dance as much as I do. I just hope his knees hold out so we can keep on dancing til eternity! Tonight for my induction dance, I dedicate my dance and song by Nat King Cole "You Stepped Out of a Dream" to my husband, Mike Pace.