



# K. Charles Calcutt 2000

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Shagging is a great way to meet girls and make new friends. I realized that when my family moved from Pamplico, where I was born, to Florence, South Carolina and we took a vacation to Ocean Drive. All the guys who could dance had all the girls. So in 1952, when I was 14 years old, I asked Newell Harlee and Margie Stokes to teach me to dance. From that first lesson, I knew I had found something I would love for the rest of my life. I've met, dated and danced with Hall of Fame Shaggers Marcia McLeod Johnson, Sherbie Knight Lancaster, and Betty "Stick" Kennedy Kane.

After I graduated from McClenaghan High in 1956, I joined the United States Coast Guard in January of 1957 and served until December of 1960. I danced in and won my first dance contest in 1957 in Miami Beach.

Ann Altman and I were married in February 11, 1959. We were both 14 years old when we dated for the first time and our marriage lasted 41 years, until she passed away in March of 2000. She was the second girl I ever dated and the love of my life. We were blessed with a girl, Fran and a boy Kenneth and 4 beautiful grandchildren, Hall, Mary Frances, Altman and Sarah.

We started dancing competitively and teaching shag during the late 70's and 80's and danced in the first National Shag Dance Contest in 1984. We finished in the top five over all. Our son Kenneth and his partner Stephanie, both junior shaggers, finished ahead of us and we became the first parent and child to finish in the top five, over all, in the Nationals.

Shagging has given me a great deal of fun and enjoyment over the years but most importantly it has given me friendships for a lifetime. During Ann's illness the shagging community were there for me and my family and I will be grateful for their support and kindness and treasure their friendship all the days of my life.