



BILL BARBER - 2014

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I was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin into a very musical family. My Great Grandfather was a Traveling Minstrel in the early 1900's who wore black face and could play every instrument. When we had family reunions, everyone brought their instruments and would Jam all day long while us kids would jump around to the music. We always had a Juke Box in our play room which was filled with all the old 45's. We would listen to Elvis, Fat's Domino, Johnny Cash, Frank Sinatra, Louis Prima, Dean Martin and my favorite Big Joe Turner. My twin Sister would invite her girlfriends over to dance. So, my Step-Mom taught me how to Twist and Shuffle my feet so I could dance with them.

After an all-time cold winter, I decided to move my family to Murrells Inlet, SC in 1978. One weekend in 1979, Brenda & I wandered up to OD and had a burger at the Sunset Grill. We heard this great music coming from the Spanish Galleon, so we decided to check it out. There were all these dance floors filled with people shuffling around and having so much fun. It would be 10 years before we made it back up to OD.

We started taking Shag Lessons from Joyce Davis O'Ryan in 1989. She was teaching at Duck's and dancing in contests with Chicken Hicks and Dewey Kennedy. Both men would become big influences on me along with Jimmy Soles, Newell Harley, Norfleet Jones, Bill Young, Bunk Leach, Billy Pack, Milton Nowell, Denny Wade and so many more Great "Fas' Dancers". Brenda and I started competing in sanctioned SPA/CSA Contests in 1992 and have attended every SOS since 1990. We have made so many friends over the years and consider all our Shag friends our family away from home. We have been teaching Shag Lessons since 1994. I am honored and humbled to be a member of the Shaggers Hall of Fame.