



# Rodger Woodson

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I was born in Roanoke, VA on March 25, 1944. While growing up there, I took annual summer trips - as soon as I was licensed to drive - from 1959 to 1965 to Myrtle Beach, where I learned to do a six-count bop-style basic at the Pavilion. Little did I know that the foundation was being set for the most important time in my life. Late during this time I attended Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, NC and then served in the United States Air Force from 1966-1970. Married life followed with two sons and the beginning - in 1971 - of a career as a home-builder. Time outside of work was centered on domestic life, Lions Club and golf. In 1989 I found myself single again and when I was approached by friends to help start the Roanoke Valley Shag Club, I most enthusiastically did: there would be dancing, a social life and girls! I served on the Board for twelve years and as President for 4-½ years.

In 1996, the RVSC's annual Pig Pickin' event featured Susie Beaver and her Junior Shag Dance team. That is when I got serious about the dance. Susie's coaching, guidance and incomparable expertise gave me the solid foundation I would later draw on in competition. The second very influential person I met during 1996 was Berta Lull, and she was a tremendous positive influence on my self-confidence in dancing and opened many doors to me to events such as Our Time and Shag Attack. I will always be in her debt for her help in navigating the Carolina Shag lifestyle. 1998 became a pivotal year, in that I had advanced to the point that I was teaching with the Susie and started competing with the late, great Karen Garman in Virginia Beach and Clarksville, VA. I was also involved as an instructor at workshops in West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, Boston, MA and Junior SOS from 1998-2000.

At Susie's urging, I decided to compete in 2002 at the National Shag Dance Championships. After a two-year interval I re-commenced CSA dancing in 2004 and with the help of gifted and patient partners, I attained Pro status in 2007. I placed three times at the National Shag Dance Championships, and placed in the top ten twice in the Carolina Classic Division at the Grand National Dance Championships during 2005-2006. I began competitive dancing again in 2017, placing once while dancing three times in the Masters Division.

I have traveled tens of thousands of miles in the enjoyment and camaraderie of the dance with no regrets. I have been blessed with wonderful partners such as Judy Davis, Loretta MacIntosh and Pat Folds. I see my involvement in the Carolina Shag universe as having saved my life; a journey that has brought me to this ultimate honor, with the recognition from my peers and induction into the Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame. For these things I am eternally grateful.