



Richard "Tubby" Madden 2011

RICHARD "TUBBY" MADDEN

I am Richard Dana Madden born in Burlington, N.C. Soon after birth, I was given the nickname "Tubby"—not quite sure why, maybe because I was a chubby baby or because that was what my brother, Randy, called me—surely didn't come from my given name. I have a brother and grandmother to blame for that, whatever the reason.

We grew up with music and dancing as a part of our lives. My mom and dad would take my brother and me to Myrtle Beach for family vacations. We would spend time at the pavilion riding rides, playing games and listening to the juke box playing beach music. My mom and dad would dance. Little did I know how that would influence the rest of my life?

My dancing started at age 10, taking the good old ballroom lessons that my mother had arranged with her good friend who taught dancing. She needed boys in her classes to dance with the girls. I knew then I was "on to something"!

My ballroom dancing evolved into the Shag. In a short time, I was dancing at the Burlington Teenage Club, YMCA and the American Legion. A few years later (thanks to my brother providing a fake id), it was dancing the days and nights away at High Point Lake, William's Lake, Moon's, Joker's 3 and the ever famous Castaway's.

When I was sixteen, I made my first unchaperoned trip to Myrtle Beach with my brother and a few of our friends. We had a ball hitting all the spots to dance: the Pad, Bucks Barrel, Sonny's and The Forks for late nighters. I knew then the music and dancing would be a big part of my life.

During the late 70's and 80's, I moved to Raleigh, and began judging and competing in Shag Dance Contests. I danced and judged in many contest at the Ember's Club, Red's, Polo's, Jolly Knave and the Bushes. I met so many of my close friends during that time in my life. Later I lived in Charlotte and was a part of the Shag community there also, dancing at the Cellar, Steak and Ale, and Groucho's.

I have traveled with my business for many years, and it is fair to say that there are not many shag establishments in the southeast that I have not stepped foot in and danced.

Today I live in Florida with my family and dance whenever we can at local shag club events. Kaye and I go back to Burlington, Raleigh, Greensboro and Ocean Drive often to see old friends, to participate in special events and to be supportive of the dance and the music. I have a genuine love for the dance and music which I have enjoyed for a big part of my life. I hope it shows. THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!!