



# Bonnie Hales - 2019

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My husband, Larry, and I live in Garner, North Carolina and have a home within a few miles of where I was raised. We also have a place at North Myrtle Beach, and we plan making this our primary residence.

During my youth, listening to music and dancing were my greatest passions. "Hound Dog" was the first rock and roll song I heard played on a portable record player. I remember clapping my hands and moving my tiny feet. That was the beginning of my love for music and dancing. Most of my friends loved dancing as much as I. We'd dance inside someone's house during the winter months and in backyards during the summer.

Larry and I met at a beach club and were married seven months later. He had taken shag lessons from Wes May, and he encouraged me to do the same. Patti Myers Strickland was my first female instructor. We've attended wonderful shag events and have been members of several shag clubs. During the late eighties and early nineties, we participated in shag contests and developed many lasting friendships. Without the encouragement from our friend Danny Johnson, we would have never competed and gotten to know so many people. We met friends, Montine and Connie Bridges while competing. Whenever they are sitting on the beach or either partying at the clubs, Larry and I are always near.

In 1986, I watched my first shag contest, and I had never heard such beautiful music and could not believe the dancing. Pee Wee and John Teel captured my heart while they danced. They have been my friends for many years, and their love for dancing and their attitude toward all aspects of this dance has been an inspiration.

Our daughter and son-in-law, Kim and Rob Singleton, along with our grandkids, Walker and Abby, appreciate my love for this dance. They tell me how much fun they have watching us dance with our friends.

Thanks to all DJ's who play the music I enjoy. All club owners have my gratitude and respect. I've had many great times while partying at Loafer's Beach Club with owners, Deborah and Gary Gibson. Larry and I attended many record shows following Gary and Charles Gurley. They always steered us toward the greatest music, and I'm forever grateful.

Larry and I enjoy dancing and listening to music more now than the day we met. What a great life I'm living!

It's such a great honor becoming a member of the (2019) Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame. I'm thrilled and humbled. I thank all the Board members and the 2018 inductees who gave me their vote.