



Thurston Reeder - 2021

THURSTON REEDER

I was born and raised in Greensboro, NC. In junior high and high school, I spent time listening to music at the various community centers, parties and at several concerts. Even though I didn't dance, I always loved the music and enjoyed watching others show their moves on the floor.

My first trip to Ocean Drive was in the early sixties with some buddies, one being my neighbor Jim Rainey. We ended up at The Pad where we had a large time and that experience became one of my lasting memories. For many years, I also enjoyed going to The Beach Club, Oasis, Army Navy Club, Port-O-Call, Sand Trap and other clubs at the beach.

During my teenage years and early 20's, I frequented The Castaways, Jokers 3, Cougar Lounge, Bachelors III and many others that opened but can't remember their names.

Several years later, I met the love of my life and she ironically went to the same high school but didn't really know her except by name. After we were married, Linda and I, along with Buzz and Dana Sawyer, opened Thirsty's Beach Club in the early 90's. After we closed Thirsty's, Linda and I opened Thirsty's 2 where we continued holding events and charity contests for fifteen years.

There are a couple of people that were instrumental with their ideas about the club business and whose advice I appreciated, one of which was Bill Griffin. He was always the major influence of beach music in the Greensboro area where he owned numerous clubs. I met Bill at The Castaway's and later worked with him at GE Supply. He was always there to answer questions and to help in any way possible. Norfleet Jones was my other go-to person for advice and his recommendations were spot-on.

There is not enough room to properly thank all the people who helped in making these clubs thrive during the twenty some years we owned them but without a doubt, we had some of the best bartenders, door people, DJ's and the greatest customers ever! One of the wonderful things about owning these clubs will always be the lifetime friends we made like Vivian, Phil and Betsy, Jim and Peggy, Max and Helen.

A special thanks to all the people who selected me for the biggest honor I could ever dream of. I am very proud to be a member of the Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame.