



Carol Leckie 2008

CAROL LECKIE

I was born and raised in Statesville, N.C. where I graduated from Cool Spring High and Lenoir-Rhyne College after majoring in elementary education.

My family started coming to Cherry Gove Beach for vacations when I was about seven years old. We continued coming as a family until I was in high school, but as a junior and senior, my parents let me come down with my friends on houseparties. We would go down to Sonny's Pavilion and watch the dancing. I never danced there then; I was too shy, even if someone had asked me.

When I was 14 or 15 I learned the basic step from a couple I babysat for. They had taken Arthur Murray dance lessons and taught me the jitterbug, which had steps that were the same as the Shag, but not as smooth. That was the beginning of my love for the dance!

In high school my friends and I went to dances at the Rec Center where the Catalinas and Harry Deal and the Galaxies often played. Those dances drew a big crowd from not only Statesville, but also from Mooresville and Hickory. I loved going there, meeting new people and "fast dancing".

When I was a junior in college, I talked my parents into letting me come to the beach to work for the summer. I worked at the Toggery Shop and lived at a big house in Ocean Drive with other girls who were down working. That is where I first saw the legendary Donnie Christenbury. He was running The Pad and sometimes came looking for his bartenders who often dated some of my summer roommates.

That did it for me! After that summer, I knew I wanted to live at the beach. I applied to Horry County for a teaching position and got a job at Chestnut High School where I met Kathryn Tilghman who was also teaching there. That was the beginning of a lasting friendship.

Living here has allowed me to not only meet, but also get to know and dance with some great people. Being inducted into The Shaggers Hall of Fame is one of the highlights of my life, and I am honored to be included in this wonderful group of people.

I have loved the beach and shagging for over forty years and have made many wonderful friends here. I never want to live anywhere else.