



Monty Lee

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I would like to thank all who had anything to do with me being honored by Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame. THANK YOU.

Having four older brothers and sisters, I was watching them dance as long as I can remember. My first dance was a sock hop in the 8th grade. The dance had me! I don't think I missed many more sock hops.

When I graduated, my brother Bill offered me the opportunity to come to Raleigh for the summer before school in the fall. The first night we went to the Cats Eye and the first person he introduced me to was Shirley Winstead. He said Shirley this is Monty, you two dance. He forgot to ask if I could. After starting with the wrong hand, she was kind enough to dance with me again. The fourth time I asked her, she put her hands on her hips and said Monty if you are going to keep asking me to dance, I'm going to have to teach you how. So the following Sunday I went to her home where she had a full basement with a jukebox and her sister, Faye danced the boys basic.

Those girls gave me the greatest gift I could have ever dreamed about. From the basement to the Jolly Knave where I met, danced with and watched many great dancers. I have danced at the Jolly Knave (Raleigh and Atlantic Beach), The Embers Club, Atlantic Beach Pavilion, Castaways. Then a job transfer to Charlotte took me to a new set of clubs; Papa Doc's, Johnny Dollar's, Groucho's, and a new set of dancers; Buzz Sawyer, Shad Alberty, Joann Johnson and many more. My first contest was at a beach blast where I danced with Tony Wicker. We took 3rd place, Kim Maynard took 2nd and Shad Alberty took 1st.

I got married in 1979 so the next 25 years was raising a family. In 2004, I moved back to the east coast to Virginia Beach. I was back with the music and dance. After four years there and running weekends to North Myrtle Beach, I moved there. Dancing and taking pictures was on and still is.

Other honors: Charlotte Area Shaggers Hall of Fame 2021, Living Legend Association (Fat Harold's) 2018, National Living Legends of Dance 2014.