



## **CRAIG JENNINGS (2018)**

A native and current resident of King George VA, Craig started collecting beach music as a young boy on family trips to Myrtle Beach, SC. Now, he is a fixture in North Myrtle Beach DJ booths during SOS and many other venues across the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. He played at the former Boulevard Grill for 4 years, has been a Ducks' DJ for 17 years and plays Fat Harold's during SOS. He plays every year during the annual DJ Throwdown. Craig is one of the best-known active DJs in the shag world.

He and his wife, Heather (VSHOF, 2023), danced their way to professional status in the Competitive Shaggers Association (CSA). He is an active member and supporter of two Virginia shag clubs in which he has served in leadership and teaching positions. He is a teacher and coach of aspiring competitive shag dancers and has served as a leader and supporter of significant organizations within the shag community. Craig and Heather have also been members of several competitive and exhibition shag dance teams, including the two Virginia shag dance teams (2004, 2006), the Northern Virginia Shag Club (NVSC) dance team (2019) and a couple Pro shag dance teams. Craig and his wife, Heather, have been the sponsors of the Non-Professional and Carolina Classic Shag Division at the USA Grand Nationals Dance Championships in Atlanta.

Craig has been an active NVSC member since 1995 and a founding and active member of the Battlefield Boogie Club (BBC) since 2005. He quickly became one of its NVSC's principal DJs in 1996, making a minimum two-hour weekday round-trip drive, largely on I-95, from King George to Northern Virginia. In 2023, he celebrates his 28<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in the DJ booth for NVSC. He regularly DJs for BBC dances, as well as those of the NVSC. Craig's face is a familiar one providing music at induction dances of the Virginia Shaggers Hall of Fame (VSHOF) and the National Living Legends of Dance (NLLD). He has DJ'd for shag parties throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Southeast. The Virginia party venues at which he has played include the Lynchburg Shag Club, Boogie on the Bay Shag Club, Richmond Shag Club, Danville Shag Club, Roanoke Shag Club, Colonial Shag Club and the Virginia Beach Music Festival. Outside the Commonwealth, he has DJ'd shag events in the Carolinas, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

In addition to playing music for the NVSC, Craig served on its Board of Directors for several years as a director-at-large and as Club secretary. He was a member of the Club's Music Committee for several years and its chair for several more years. He serves as the BBC's DJ coordinator. He has written articles for the newsletters of both clubs on beach and shag music. Craig has been a member of the Association of Beach and Shag Club DJs (ABSCDJ) since 1996, and is a lifetime member of the organization. He served as its Treasurer in 2001 and 2002 and Vice President in 2023. In 2022, Craig was inducted into the ABSCDJ Hall of Fame. In addition, he was a member of the CSA Board of Directors from 2001-2004, and was CSA President in 2003, working with VSHOF and CSA members Kevin and Joan Byrnes to bring the first CSA contest to Virginia.

For many years, in addition to being a shag party DJ, he has been a shag contest DJ as well. He is the contest DJ and master of ceremonies at the Central Virginia Junior Shag Jam in Hopewell, VA. Craig is also a competition and social dance DJ at the USA Grand National Dance Championships in Atlanta. He is the annual contest DJ and master of ceremonies for the Eno Beach Shag Club's CSA shag contest in Durham NC, as well as all of the shag contests at Fat Harold's Beach Club, including: Keepers of the Dance, Hardwoods and Labor Day. In 2023, he scored one of the most prestigious DJ gigs in the Shag World, invited to be the contest DJ for the National Shag Dance Championships in North Myrtle Beach, SC.