



DAVE RODGERS (2013)

David Rodgers has been on a dance floor for 54 years, dancing his way from the Big Band era to the SOS era. In fact, he was on the Central Dance Association at Clemson College (now Clemson University), when that student-leadership committee brought Louis Prima, Lionel Hampton and Tommy Dorsey to play for campus dances.

It began for David in 1953, when he learned to "fast dance" at the Teen Canteen in Sumter SC. His teacher and partner was Betty "Stick" Kennedy Kane, now a Living Legend of Dance and a member of the Beach Shaggers Hall of Fame. On family vacations at the beach, David began hanging out by the jukeboxes at The Pad in Ocean Drive and the pavilions at Myrtle Beach and Pawleys Island. He won his high school's senior class contest for best male dancer.

After Clemson, David spent 30 years in the Army on assignments that took him far away from the Carolina juke joints. In those three decades, he seldom shagged, except during occasional trips back to Sumter. When he retired from the Army and settled in Fairfax, Va., David began a systematic, relentless, months-long search for the shag club that was rumored to be dancing somewhere in the area. He eventually found the Northern Virginia Shag Club and joined immediately in 1996. In the 11 years since, David has held many elected and appointed club offices, including his current job as NVSC President. His credits on the service side of shag's ledger are too many to list, and are summed up by his receipt, in 2004 and 2005, of the NVSC President's Award for outstanding contributions to his club.

However, it's on the dance side of the ledger where David made his biggest contributions and takes his greatest joy. David chaired the NVSC dance instruction committee for several years, and he himself taught for years almost every week at the club. Before Vesta Denning (VSHOF, 2006) moved to Virginia Beach, she was David's dance and teaching partner in Northern Virginia. In 1999, David and Vesta won an amateur shag contest at Clarksville, Va. and they competed in the Virginia State Open and in the Smoothies Contest at SOS.